



North-South Centre of the Council of Europe



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2010 ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Executive Summary:

2010 was an important year for the North-South Centre with the key highlights being:

- the celebration of its 20th Anniversary;
- the continued successful implementation of its Co-operation Agreements with the European Commission;
- the advancement of the process leading to the adoption of a recommendation supporting education for global interdependence and solidarity by the Committee of Ministers;
- the reinforcement of its international partnerships, in particular with the UN Alliance of Civilisations;

And, most importantly:

- the significant progress of the process leading to a new statutory resolution for the North-South Centre.

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1 PREFACE BY MRS DEBORAH BERGAMINI, CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

AT THE CROSSROADS...

In 2010, the North-South Centre successfully celebrated its 20th anniversary by:

- Receiving messages of support at the highest level and from different backgrounds, in particular from Pope Benedict XVI, the President of the European Commission, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilizations and the highest authorities of the host country (President of the Republic, President of the Assembly of the Republic);
- Bringing together people who have marked its history – including a dozen former winners of the North-South Prize – at a Roundtable on “Interdependence and Solidarity in the 21st Century” (Lisbon, 18 May 2010);
- Launching a series of publications on the achievements of the Centre since its creation and the challenges of its work in a very different world from the years 1989-1993;
- Organising the exhibition “20 bridge builders in the History of Humanity”, which opened in Lisbon in May, before moving to Strasbourg in June and Molina (Spain) in September;
- Obtaining the support of all its stakeholders, not only within the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, Parliamentary Assembly, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Conference of INGOs) but also the European Union (European Commission, European Parliament) to the process that should lead to the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of a new Statutory Resolution in 2011, on the basis of Recommendation 1893, adopted by the PACE (in November 2009).

The permanent processes implemented by the Centre during its history (the Lisbon Forum since 1994, the North-South Prize since 1995, the University on Youth and Development since 2000) have been strengthened and now constitute the backbone of its programme of activities. The relationship with the European Union is stronger than ever, as shown by the implementation, since 2009 – to the satisfaction of both parties – of joint programmes concluded in late 2008. With regard to the United Nations (since 2008), the Centre has developed privileged co-operation links with the Alliance of Civilizations and actively contributes to its regional strategies being implemented in the Balkans and the Mediterranean.

All this gives the North-South Centre solid assets to project itself into the future in a radically changing international environment, which makes its role as an interface between Europe and the South – especially the neighbouring regions of our continent – more relevant than ever. The changes that have occurred over the past three years bear witness to this: five new countries – including two non-European countries – have joined the Centre, two countries which had withdrawn have returned and the European Union is providing its full political and financial support to the Centre’s work. This has enabled the Centre, not only to significantly strengthen its means of action, but also to greatly reduce its dependence regarding the obligatory contributions of member States.

The internal positive dynamics experienced by the North-South Centre over the past three years contrasts dramatically with the broader European context, marked by both a very serious financial crisis and a disturbing political radicalisation. These elements, beyond the specific circumstances of each case, have been factors in the recent decisions of two of the oldest member States of the Centre, the Netherlands and Switzerland to end their commitment. The overall picture of early 2011 is clouded and the North-South Centre is now at a crossroads.

The key to the future is in the discussions which will be held over the coming weeks on the revised proposal for a statutory resolution that the Secretary General of the Council of Europe has prepared on the basis of discussions held during the autumn.

The adoption of this resolution by the Committee of Ministers (as soon as possible), followed by the preparation – by the summer – of a new strategy destined to provide the Centre with a “roadmap” for 2011-2013, will give the North-South Centre both political momentum and the administrative and financial stability it needs to carry out its mission. This is what we can wish for it and wish to everyone for the future.

2 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 STATUTORY ORGANS OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

The present Executive Council of the NSC (see its composition in Appendix 1) was set up in March 2008 for a period of two years. In the framework of its initial discussions on the follow-up to be given to PACE Recommendation 1893 on “the future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (“North-South Centre”)", the Committee of Ministers decided, on 24 February, “to prolong, on an exceptional basis, the mandate of the present Executive Council for a further year until 31 March 2011, so as to allow time for the Committee of Ministers to adopt a final position on the proposal made by the Parliamentary Assembly in its Recommendation 1893 (2009)".

A meeting of the **Bureau** of the Executive Council took place on 29 January 2010 in Strasbourg and the following important decisions were taken. The Bureau:

- agreed on the position on the follow-up to Recommendation 1893 (2009), on “The future of the European Centre of Global Interdependence and Solidarity” and entrusted the Executive Director to relay this position to the GR-C meeting on 2 February 2010;
- established, on a preliminary basis, a preselection of 20 personalities based, in particular, on the list of proposed candidates of “Twenty bridge builders in the history of humanity" and entrusted the Secretariat to make proposals, on the basis of this preselection, in order to ensure an adequate gender and geographical balance;
- decided to launch an appeal to the general public when visiting the exhibition to identify a 21st bridge builder on the basis of a list of 10 personalities suggested by the North-South Centre or on a personal basis;
- shortlisted, on a preliminary basis, the following themes for the 2010 Lisbon Forum:
 - Liberties, responsibilities, rights and ethics;
 - Freedom of expression, conscience and religion;
 - The principle of equality between women and men

and entrusted the Secretariat to prepare an outline for these themes in due time before the Executive Council’s 2010 spring meeting.

This was followed by the 54th meeting of the **Committee of Representatives of Members** in Strasbourg on 18 March during which a number of important decisions were taken. The Committee:

- welcomed the confirmation of the accession of Cape-Verde to the North-South Centre as from 1 March 2010;

- transmitted its strong wish to the Executive Council that the Think-Tank project should be implemented taking into account the financial constraints of the North-South Centre and the need to concentrate its resources on its programme of activities;
- took note with satisfaction of the implementation of the strategic document on the future of the North-South Centre during the period April 2008-March 2010;
- noted the Chair's intention to convene an enlarged meeting of the Executive Council on 17 May 2010, opened to all NSC member States, and encouraged as far as possible participation at political level;
- took note with satisfaction of the activities and timetable of the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre;
- expressed its gratitude to the Spanish authorities for the voluntary contribution of 30,000 euros given to the programme of activities of the North-South Centre.

The 43rd meeting of the **Executive Council** took place in Lisbon on 17 May, as part of the Official Ceremony of the Centre's 20th Anniversary (see page 34). Given the significance of the occasion and the importance of the agenda items being discussed (the adoption of its opinion on PACE Recommendation 1893 (2009) on the future of the North-South Centre, an assessment of the implementation of the strategic document on the North-South Centre, approved by the statutory bodies in spring 2008, the choice of theme for the 2010 Lisbon Forum and the 20th Anniversary of the Centre), the Chair convened an enlarged meeting, inviting all the member States of the Centre, as well as the former member States (France, Malta and Turkey). Almost all member States were represented at the meeting, together with the three former members. Both the host country, Portugal, and Sweden were represented at ministerial level with Mr Pedro Silva Pereira, Minister of the Presidency of Portugal and Mrs Nyamko Sabuni, Minister for integration and gender equality of Sweden.

The Executive Council took a number of important decisions, in particular, it:

- took note with satisfaction of the implementation of the strategic document on the future of the North-South Centre during the period April 2008-2010;
- instructed the Secretariat to prepare the 2011 programme of activities and budget in light of the discussions held on this matter;
- entrusted the Executive Director to prepare a new strategic document in early 2011, following the expected adoption by the Committee of Ministers of a new statutory resolution, for consideration by the new Executive Council.
- adopted its opinion on Recommendation 1893 (2009), on "The future of the European Centre of Global Interdependence and Solidarity";
- decided that the theme of the 2010 Lisbon Forum would be "Freedom of expression, conscience and religion";
- entrusted the Think-Tank with the task of providing assistance and advice to the Secretariat in the preparation and follow-up of the 2010 Lisbon Forum.

In the framework of the Co-operation Agreement signed between the Council of Europe and the MBI Al Jaber Foundation (see page 16), the North-South Centre has created a **Think-Tank**. This initiative was

supported by the Executive Council at its 42nd meeting (6 November 2009) and the Bureau endorsed the modalities and criteria for its creation at its meeting of 29 January 2010, taking note of the list of proposed members, which were subsequently nominated by the Chair. The Think-Tank is composed of eight experts, whose role is to advise and support the NSC Secretariat with the preparation and evaluation of its annual programme of activities.

The Think-Tank was officially launched on 17 May in Lisbon during the 43rd meeting of the Executive Council when its members were presented to the Executive Council. Its first meeting was held the same day, during which it discussed and provided its opinion on the potential themes of the 2010 Lisbon Forum. It also examined and made comments on the new draft statutory resolution and drew up a list of questions to serve as a guide for future reflection. Following its first meeting, the Chair of the Think-Tank, Dr. Eberhard Koelsch, reported to the Executive Council which took note of his report and welcomed its initial reflections on the work of the North-South Centre, its comments on the choice of theme for the 2010 Lisbon Forum and the proposed new statutory resolution presented by the PACE. It also entrusted the Think-Tank with the task of providing assistance and advice to the Secretariat in the preparation and follow-up of the 2010 Lisbon Forum. It was foreseen that the Think-Tank would meet twice a year, prior to the Executive Council meeting¹.

A meeting of the Bureau took place on 25 June in Strasbourg. In addition to a progress review of the implementation of the 2010 programme of activities, the main agenda item was the 2010 North-South Prize Jury (see page 31).

The 53rd meeting of the **Committee of Representatives of the member States** took place on 8 October in Strasbourg. The key agenda items were the proposal of the Secretary General regarding the new statutory resolution for the North-South Centre, as well the draft programme of activities and budget for 2011.

With regard to the proposal for a new statutory resolution, the member States had different views as regards the opportunity to modify its structures and its operation. Diverging positions were expressed between those who were in favour of maintaining the present status of the North-South Centre and those who advocated a better balance of powers among the stakeholders of the Centre, while maintaining its “quadrilogue” character. This discussion was continued at the 44th meeting of the Executive Council (3 November) during which it took note with satisfaction of the proposal made by the Secretary General which clearly reflects the quadrilogue structure of the NSC. On the side of the member States, a document on a possible revision of the Statutory resolution on the North-south Centre, was distributed at the request of the Greek delegation on 26 October 2010. With regard to the “quadrilogue” partners, letters of support for the “quadrilogue” structure were received from the European Youth Forum, CONCORD, and the European Parliament, dated 16, 17 and 25 November 2010 respectively.

The Secretary General revised his proposal taking into account these discussions and correspondence and informal consultation meetings were held with the member States on 7 and 21 March 2011 respectively. A consensus was reached on the text during these meetings and it has been transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for examination at the GR-C meeting of 21 April and its subsequent adoption foreseen no later than the ministerial meeting in Istanbul on 11 May.

During its meeting of 8 October, the Committee of Representatives of Members also examined the draft budget for 2011. While this had initially been prepared in compliance with the policy of zero real growth

¹ The autumn meeting did not take place as the funds from the MBI Al Jaber Foundation had not been received.

and taking into account the new memberships (Azerbaijan and Cape Verde), following the notification of the return of Malta and the withdrawal of the Netherlands and of Switzerland on 16, 23 and 29 September respectively, it had been necessary to prepare a revised draft which was based on a “half impact” policy as regards recent developments. During the exchange of views, a large majority of member States supported this revised budget. Nevertheless, given the short time limit between the preparation of the revised budget and the present meeting, some representatives (Germany, Ireland, Norway, Spain and Sweden) asked that the decisions on the budget were adopted *ad referendum*. The representatives of Germany, Spain and Sweden also expressed their objection to the revised budget on the basis that the North-South Centre budget should be based on zero growth and that the other member States should not compensate for the withdrawals of other countries. At the expiration of the *ad referendum* deadline, on 15 October, there were still objections from some delegations on the proposed draft budget. As a consequence, on 25 October, a new proposal was submitted, which met with the approval of all member States of the North-South Centre and was subsequently adopted by the Executive Council at its meeting of 3 November.

Among the other important decisions taken at its meeting of 8 October, the Committee of Representatives of Members:

- warmly welcomed the accession of Azerbaijan to the North-South Centre on 1 August 2010 and the return of Malta as a member as from 1 January 2011;
- noted with regret the withdrawal of the Netherlands and Switzerland as of 31 December 2010 and thanked both countries for the important contribution they have made to the North-South Centre;
- expressed its gratitude for the voluntary contribution of 27,087 euros received from the government of Liechtenstein;
- approved the financial statements of the North-South Centre for 2009, as presented in document CM (2010) 101;

Among the other important decisions taken at its 44th meeting on 3 November, the Executive Council:

- took note of the draft rules of procedures of the Executive Council as they appear in document NSC/EC (2010) 12 prov;
- took note with satisfaction of the activities carried out in the framework of the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre;
- authorised the North-South Centre to release the provision of [-16 000] Euros included in the 2011 budget for the salary adjustment after the relevant budgetary decisions have been taken by the Committee of Ministers.

2.2 MEMBER STATES

The official request of **Cape Verde** to become a member of the North-South Centre was received, through a letter dated 11 November 2009 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde, Mr José Brito. This request was based on the existing strategic partnership between Cape Verde and the European Union and on a long-standing co-operation with the North-South Centre. On 9 December 2009, the Committee of Ministers adopted a positive decision in principle regarding the accession of Cape Verde to the North-South Centre. This was followed by a consultation of those North-South Centre member States which are not members of the Council of Europe (Holy See and Morocco) which both supported this request. As a consequence, the Minister of Foreign

Affairs of Cape Verde, Mr José Brito, confirmed, in a letter dated 25 February 2010, the accession of his country to the North-South Centre on 1 March 2010. With this accession, the North-South Centre took a very important political step as it welcomed – after Morocco – a second African country, and also and above all, the first member State from Sub-Saharan Africa. It also reinforced the role of the North-South Centre as a facilitator of dialogue between Europe and its neighbouring regions.

In a letter to the Secretary General dated 7 July 2010, the Minister of Culture and Tourism of **Azerbaijan**, Dr. Abulfas Garayev, announced that his country would join the Centre on 1 August 2010, making it the 23rd member State of the North-South Centre. The accession of Azerbaijan was of particular importance as it opened a new geographical space for the North-South Centre, namely the Caucasus and Central Asia. More importantly, it strengthened the role of the Centre in promoting dialogue and co-operation between Europe and the Muslim world.

As a follow-up to the accession of Azerbaijan, the North-South Centre became a member of the Task-Force set up by the authorities of Azerbaijan to organise the Baku World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue which will take place in Baku on 7-9 April 2011 (see page 31).

In a letter to the Secretary General dated 16 September 2010, the Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Representation of **Malta** to the Council of Europe, announced that his country had decided to join the North-South Centre as of 1 January 2011. The return of Malta, one of the founding members of the Centre, is of particular significance given its role in the exchange and promotion of dialogue on the two sides of the Mediterranean and marks a sign of the renewed confidence of the member States in the North-South Centre.

However, following these positive developments and new accessions, the North-South Centre received notification of the withdrawals of the **Netherlands** and of **Switzerland**, on 23 and 29 September respectively (both of which took effect on 31 December 2010).

With regard to other member States, a list of the key pertinent news/developments from 2010 is detailed below in chronological order:

In his speech to the Parliamentary Assembly on 26 January 2010, Mr Franco Frattini, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of **Italy** underlined that “we have two primary challenges to face: first, we must contribute to the globalisation of human rights and to their effective universality without diluting the content or making the significance relative, and secondly, we must promote the meeting of diverse cultures without renouncing to a certain number of common founding principles.” He also underlined the fact that “it is not about exporting to Afghanistan rather than to Iran rights and democracy, as we perceive them or as we “manufacture” them in Strasbourg, Brussels or Vienna. No, on the contrary, it is about making sure that these rights can develop and flourish in these very countries where they are not guaranteed due to a progressive awareness and thanks to the work of the civil society from the bottom up.” Mr Frattini also declared that “we must therefore work on prevention, by encouraging the development of countries of origin.” Finally, he recalled that “Italy has resumed its place in the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, chaired by Deborah Bergamini who immediately implemented all that was necessary to strengthen this new organism, notably by presenting in Venice a special initiative for the elimination of violence against women, Action for Women”.

On the same day, Mr George Papandréou, Prime Minister of **Greece**, reaffirmed that “we must either humanise and democratise globalisation, or globalisation will become synonymous with violence and barbarism”. He also highlighted that “we can collectively be more effective in our responses to new global challenges – climate change, sustainable development, terrorism and violence, organised crime, migration and racism. Those are all pressing issues that test our traditional values and threaten the social fabric of our

countries. These complex issues affect different countries in different ways, but they all affect us in many ways, and we can all deal with them with common principles. We must tackle them with both delicacy and determination and strike an equitable balance between conflicting interests, but base this on fundamental principles on which all our negotiation must be based – such as the respect for human rights, which is non-negotiable”.

Following the accession of **Morocco** to the North-South Centre on 1 July 2009, the Centre organised an awareness-raising seminar in Rabat on 22-23 February 2010 (see page 28).

On 13-14 April, the Executive Director made a working visit to **Switzerland**. Following contacts with the new President of the Swiss PACE delegation in January 2010, he was invited to hold an exchange of views with the PACE Delegation in Berne on 14 April. The Executive Director took this opportunity to present the progress and results achieved by the Centre over the past two years. Mrs Annelise Oeschger, former Chair of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, and former member of the Executive Council, was also present on this occasion.

The Executive Director used his presence in Switzerland to have a series of contacts in Geneva on 13 April when, together with the new Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for the United Nations, he participated in a meeting with the Office of the UN Human Rights High Commissioner to discuss, among other things, co-operation on the North-South Centre’s Annual Lisbon Forum. He also had contacts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bern.

On 15-16 April, the Secretary General carried out his first official visit to **Italy**, one of the founding members of the Council Europe (and its North-South Centre). During his visit, he held a series of high-level meetings with the Italian authorities including the Presidents of the Republic and the Parliament as well as with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Justice, the Interior and Culture. The Secretary General also participated, on 16 April, in the Prize Ceremony of “Action for Women”, the international cinema competition aimed by combatting violence against women, launched by the Chair of the Executive Council in September 2009. The Chair of the Executive Council was able to have direct contacts with the Secretary General on this occasion.

A important moment in the year for the North-South Centre was the visit of **Pope Benedict XVI** to Portugal. On the occasion of his meeting with the representatives of the cultural world (Lisbon, 12 May 2010), which constituted one of the highlights of his visit, Pope Benedict underlined the importance of intercultural dialogue, one of the founding principles of the North-South Centre of which the **Holy See** is a member since 1998. The Holy Father also mentioned the 20th Anniversary of the Centre:

"A testimony to this is the Holy See’s presence in several international organisations, as for example its presence at the Council of Europe’s North-South Centre, established 20 years ago here in Lisbon, which is focused on intercultural dialogue with a view to promoting cooperation between Europe, the southern Mediterranean and Africa, and building a global citizenship based on human rights and civic responsibility, independent of ethnic origin or political allegiance, and respectful of religious beliefs. Given the reality of cultural diversity, people need not only to accept the existence of the culture of others, but also to aspire to be enriched by it and to offer to it whatever they possess that is good, true and beautiful."

On the invitation of the President of the Constitutional Court of Portugal, the Executive Director participated in the Constituent Assembly of the **Conference of Constitutional Courts of Portuguese-Speaking Countries**, which was held on 20-21 May in Lisbon. In addition to the President of the Constitutional Court of Portugal, the Presidents of the Supreme Court of Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe and East Timor were present. The Conference served

as a platform for permanent co-operation between Portuguese-speaking countries in the field of constitutional justice, with the objective of promoting human rights, pluralist democracy and the independence of judicial power. The NSC brought its political support to the implementation and will follow its activities which are complementary to the process of the “World Conference on Constitutional Justice” launched in January 2009 by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe.

The Executive Director used this opportunity of his presence in **Finland** on 21-23 October to participate in the GENE Network Round Table (see page) to have bilateral contacts with the Finnish authorities (in particular the Ministry for Foreign Affairs). Discussions mainly focused on the 2011 budget and the new statutory resolution for the North-South Centre.

In addition, during the time period covered by this report, the Executive Director and/or the NSC Secretariat and/or the Chair of the Executive Council organised or participated in meetings in **Cape Verde** (see page 26), **Cyprus** (see page 19) **Finland** (see page 24), **Germany** (see pages 15, 23), **Italy** (see pages 9, 35), **Morocco** (see page 28), **Portugal** (see pages 9, 12, 15, 23, 30, 31, 33), **Slovenia** (see page 22, 30), **Spain** (see pages 26, 27, 29) and **Switzerland** (see page 9).

Finally, a special mention should be made to the close working relationship and co-operation which the Centre enjoys with its host country, **Portugal**. In 2010, the North-South Centre team further strengthened and fostered its working relationship with the Portuguese authorities and received immeasurable support for its key events (in particular, the 20th Anniversary celebrations (see page 34) and the North-South Prize Ceremony (see page 31). During the course of 2010, the Executive Director had several bilateral meetings with the State Secretary for European Affairs of Portugal, Pedro Lourtie, which provided the opportunity to give the State Secretary a comprehensive overview of the Centre's activities and priorities and keep him informed of the latest developments.

2.3 COUNCIL OF EUROPE INSTITUTIONS AND GENERAL SECRETARIAT

On 27 January 2010, the North-South Centre and the **Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe** signed a **Co-operation Agreement** on the occasion of the winter session of the Conference of INGOs. The main objective of this Agreement is to strengthen the co-operation that has existed between the two institutions for many years. The Agreement refers to the institutional representation of the Conference within the Executive Council of the NSC and establishes the procedures for co-operation with the NSC at a general and practical level and within civil society.

This Co-operation Agreement is the latest one established by the North-South Centre with its stakeholders within the Council of Europe, following the Co-operation Agreement signed in 2008 with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2005.

During its 1st part-session on 25-29 January 2010, the **Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE** elected Mr Mevlüt Çavusoglu (Turkey) as its 25th President. In his first speech as President, he declared: “I come from a country which has prided itself for two millennia on being a bridge between continents”. This and other speeches and debates touched directly on the North-South Centre’s key priorities. The PACE also renewed its representation in the NSC, designating Mr Kimmo Sasi (Finland) and Mrs Manuela de Melo (Portugal) as titular members and Mr Lluís Maria de Puig (Spain) and Mme Maryvonne Blondin (France) as substitute members.

On 24 February, on the basis of the discussions held on 2 February within its Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C), the **Committee of Ministers** took a series of important decisions regarding the follow-up to be given to PACE Recommendation 1893 (2009), prepared in the context of the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre (see page 34). It:

1. invited the Secretary General to provide an opinion on the possible revision of the Statutory Resolution of the North-South Centre on the basis of the elements outlined in Recommendation 1893 (2009) and in the light of the comprehensive reform process of the Council of Europe which he recently initiated;
2. agreed to transmit the recommendation to the Executive Council of the North-South Centre, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe for opinion by 31 May 2010;
3. agreed to transmit the recommendation to the European Commission and to the European Parliament for information and possible comments by 30 June 2010;
4. noted that the possible revision of the Statutory Resolution of the North-South Centre would not have any implications for the Ordinary Budget of the Council of Europe;
5. in the light of the opinions and possible comments received, invited their Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C) to prepare a draft reply for adoption at one of their forthcoming meetings.

As a follow-up, the **Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs** adopted its opinion during its plenary session in Strasbourg on 28 April. The draft opinion, prepared by Ms Sophie Dimitroulias (Greece, Association des femmes de l'Europe méridionale – AFEM) was first examined by the Transversal Group on Europe and Global Challenges during its meeting on 26 April. A historical perspective to the Recommendation was provided on this occasion by Mr Uwe Holtz, former rapporteur of PACE at the time of the creation of the NSC.

The **Executive Council** of the North-South Centre adopted its opinion during its 43rd meeting on 17 May in Lisbon. The **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities** of the Council of Europe adopted its opinion at its Standing Committee meeting in Strasbourg on 18 June 2010. Written comments were received from the Presidents of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions of the European Union in letters dated 21 May, 7 July and 17 September respectively.

On the basis of Recommendation 1893 (2009) and of the opinions and comments received, and in the light of the ongoing reform of the Council of Europe as a whole, the **Secretary General prepared his proposal** for a new statutory Resolution of the North-South Centre, to be used as a working basis for the Committee of Ministers. During the first round of discussions held by the Committee of Representatives of Members and the Executive Council during the autumn, diverging positions were expressed between those in favour of maintaining the present structure of the Centre and those advocating a change in the balance of powers among stakeholders, while maintaining its “quadrilogue” character. On the side of the member States, a document on a possible revision of the Statutory resolution on the North-south Centre, was distributed at the request of the Greek delegation on 26 October 2010. With regard to the “quadrilogue” partners, letters of support for the “quadrilogue” structure were received from the European Youth Forum, CONCORD, and the European Parliament, dated 16, 17 and 25 November 2010 respectively.

The Secretary General revised his proposal taking into account these discussions and correspondence and informal consultation meetings were held with the member States on 7 and 21 March 2011 respectively. A consensus was reached on the text during these meetings and it has been transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for examination at the GR-C meeting of 21 April and its subsequent adoption foreseen no later than the ministerial meeting in Istanbul on 11 May.

With regard to other news regarding the Centre's co-operation with Council of Europe's institutions, on 17 March 2010, the Vice-Chair of the Executive Council, Dr. Eberhard Koelsch, addressed the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe** during its debate on North-South co-operation, held during its Plenary Session (17-19 March). Co-operation between the North-South Centre and the Congress has intensified following the signature of a Co-operation Agreement between the two institutions in December 2008.

During the 2nd part-session of the **PACE** (26-30 April), a number of important reports and recommendations were adopted, of particular relevance to the North-South Centre. In particular, the Chair of the Executive Council participated in the debate (30 April) on the Council of Europe's strategy for the Euro-Mediterranean region, based on a report by Mr Denis Badré (France). In the report, the Centre is identified as the key contributor to the development of co-operation between the Council of Europe and the Mediterranean countries and a call is launched to all member States of the Council of Europe to join the North-South Centre.

The Chair and the Executive Director used the opportunity of their presence at the 2nd PACE session to have a series of contacts, including a meeting with the new PACE President, Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu.

On 11 May, the 120th session of the **Committee of Ministers** brought together, in Strasbourg, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the 47 member States of the organisation. The meeting agenda dealt with the Council of Europe's current key priorities, including co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union. In this context, the Ministers "welcomed the substantial progress in the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union and the increase in the volume of Joint Programmes between the Council of Europe and the European Union, which are an efficient co-operation tool to support the reform agenda of the partner countries and thus to promote and protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe." They also "encouraged the continuation of co-operation in the field of intercultural dialogue and social cohesion."

In addition, with regard to education, the Ministers, in view of the important role of education for the promotion of knowledge on the European Convention on Human Rights and the fundamental rights enshrined therein, adopted a Recommendation on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education.

At the close of the session, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" took over the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers for the next six months from Switzerland.

On 5 June, the Chair of the North-South Centre, participated in the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the **Venice Commission** ("The European Commission for Democracy through law"), one of the Centre's main partners within the Council of Europe. This occasion provided the opportunity for the Chair to have contacts with Venice Commission representatives to discuss areas of co-operation, including the annual Lisbon Forum, which has been organised in partnership with the Venice Commission in recent years.

On 30 August, the Executive Director participated in the **Pilot Encounter on journalism training, discrimination and diversity**, jointly organised by the Council of Europe and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights at the University of Coimbra (Portugal). This Encounter, which took place in the framework of the CoE Campaign "Speak out against discrimination", brought together some 30 media professional representing the diversity of European countries, was the opportunity to experience and assess the training tools which have been produced during the Campaign for the medias. There was a strong interest in possible follow up actions to be organised after the end of the Campaign in December 2010, including in a North-South dimension.

2.4 OTHER NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE STAKEHOLDERS

2010 marked the second year of implementation of the Joint Management Agreement (JMA) signed between the North-South Centre and the **European Commission** on 27 November 2008. The project is based on two main pillars, firstly to strengthen global education in the new member States of the European Union and, secondly, to promote Africa-Europe youth co-operation in the context of the EU-Africa Strategy – and targets mainly civil society actors and local authorities. The project is being carried out over a three-year period (2009-2011), with a total amount of approximately 1.300.000 euros, of which the European Commission is providing 900.000 euros and the North-South Centre 400.000 euros. (For information on the activities, see page 17).

In 2010, the body responsible for overseeing the implementation progress of the JMA, the Advisory Steering Group, which is composed of representatives of EU and NSC member States, as well as the European Commission and partners from the civil society and local authorities involved in the JMA project, held two meetings (following the two held in 2009). During the 1st meeting, which took place in Brussels on 28 April, and which was co-chaired by the Executive Director of the North-South Centre, each partner gave an update on its work progress and the positive findings of the audit on the first year of implementation, carried out by an independent expert mandated by the Commission in early 2010, were highly appreciated. During the 2nd meeting which took place on 8 December (also in Brussels), the members discussed the outcomes of the European Commission's Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) Study, the Declaration and concrete outcomes of the second Africa-Europe Youth Summit organised in November 2010 in Libya, and the remaining implementation of the JMA.

An analysis of the first two two years of implementation of the JMA programme showed that, in total 1303 participants attended 32 implemented activities relating to the promotion of global education/development education or to youth co-operation between Europe and Africa. Out of these, the majority of the participants, namely 1103 participants (85%) were from Europe and of those, 894 (69%) were from the new member States of the European Union; 162 participants (12%) were from African countries; and 37 participants (3%) from other regions of the world. In addition, 795 of the participants were women (61%) and 508 men (39 %). The main beneficiaries of the JMA programme have been youth leaders and youth organisations; members of civil society organisations active in the field of development and global education/development education; teachers, school staff and universities; educators and trainers from NGOs. A surprising aspect during the implementation has been the unexpected large interest in participating in the national global education seminars in the new EU member states, of which some seminars had almost 100 participants. The sub-regional seminars on youth policy in Africa also attracted more participants than anticipated, and thus contributed to larger overall figures than expected.

2010 also marked the second year of implementation of the new **Euro-African dimension** added, as a follow-up to the Euro-African Youth Summit of December 2007, to the ongoing EC/CoE Youth Partnership, on the basis of a 200.000 Euros envelope (co-financed by the EC and the NSC). (For information on the activities, see page 25).

The Executive Director paid working visits to Brussels on 16 March, 28 April and 7-8 December. During the first visit, he had contacts with officials from the European Commission (DG-RELEX, DG-AIDCO, DG-DEV, DG-EaC) and the Private Office of President Barroso. During his second visit, in addition to the above-mentioned JMA meeting, he held a working meeting with the Secretariat of the **Committee of the Regions of the European Union**, to further discuss co-operation prospects with the North-South Centre, as a follow-up to the discussions held in 2009, in particular in the context of the new statutory resolution for the North-South Centre. As a result, the President of the Committee of the Regions submitted written comments on the new statutory resolution and welcomed the proposal for the Committee of the Regions to

be seated on the North-South Centre's Executive Council. During his final visit, the Executive Director attended the aforementioned JMA meeting and the European Development Days (see page 24).

2.5 NON-MEMBER STATES

On 28 January 2010, the Executive Director of the North-South Centre and the Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport met a delegation from **Tunisia**, composed of the Consul General in Strasbourg, Mr Zouhaier Guembri, a member of Parliament, Ms Nabila Kallel, and Senator Jameleddine Khemakhem. During this meeting, prospects for co-operation between Tunisia and the North-South Centre were discussed.

The President of PACE paid an official visit to **Kazakhstan** from 15-18 March. During the visit, prospects for reinforced co-operation with the Council of Europe were discussed, taking into consideration the fact that Kazakhstan is currently chairing the OSCE. Particular emphasis was made to the possibilities opened by Kazakhstan's accession to the European Cultural Convention, including co-operation with the North-South Centre.

In addition, during the time period covered by this report, the Executive Director and/or the NSC Secretariat and/or the Chair of the Executive Council organised or participated in meetings in **Angola** (see page 28), **Argentina** (see page 23), **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (see page 24), **Brazil** (see page 14), **Belgium** (see pages 13, 24), **the Czech Republic** (see page 18), **Egypt** (see page 24), **France** (see pages 29, 30), **Hungary** (see page 18), **Latvia** (see page 19), **Libya** (see page 25), **Lithuania** (see page 17), **Malta** (see page 17), **Romania** (see pages 18, 22), the **Russian Federation** (see page 22), **Slovakia** (see page 17), **South Africa** (see page 25), the **United Kingdom** (see page 22), the **United States of America** (see page 15) and **Uruguay** (see page 26).

2.6 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

In 2010, the North-South Centre continued its close co-operation with one of its key partners, the **UN Alliance of Civilisations**. It is recalled that, in September 2009, the Acting Secretary General of the CoE, Mrs Maud de Boer-Buquicchio and the UN High Representative, Mr Jorge Sampaio, had an exchange of letters, confirming and strengthening co-operation between the two institutions. The Council of Europe accepted the Alliance's offer to contribute to its regional strategies for the Balkans (adopted in 2009) and the Mediterranean (adopted in November 2010). In the context of the latter, the Executive Director of the North-South Centre represented the Council of Europe at the preparatory meeting held in Alexandria on 15-16 January 2010. He also attended the Focal Points meeting which took place in Lisbon on 19-20 February 2010 during which a discussion was held on both the Alliance's proposed regional strategy for the Mediterranean and the preparation of an Action Plan for the Balkans, on the basis of the Strategy adopted in December 2009.

Following this, the Executive Director participated, on behalf of both the Council of Europe and the North-South Centre, in the **Alliance's 3rd Forum** which took place on 27-29 May in Rio de Janeiro, at the invitation of the Brazilian government. The Forum brought together over 2,000 political and corporate leaders, mayors, civil society activists, youth, journalists, foundations, international organizations, and religious leaders, with a view to developing joint action, to improving relations across cultures, combatting prejudice and building the conditions for long-term peace. High-level participants included the Presidents of Brazil, Argentina, Slovenia, Cape Verde, Bolivia and Senegal, the Prime Ministers of Spain, Turkey, Portugal, Greece and Haiti, the Secretaries General / Director General of the United Nations, UNESCO, OIM, SEGIP, OSCE, OIC and the League of Arab States, as well as (on the Council of Europe side) the Presidents of the Committee of Ministers and of the Parliamentary Assembly.

A series of meetings and events took place during the Forum. The Council of Europe contributed, in particular, to the Round Table on Islamophobia, the restricted Focal Points Ministerial session during which the proposed Strategy for the Mediterranean was discussed and the plenary session during which the Action Plan for the **Strategy for the Balkans** was adopted. The Executive Director also assisted the President of the Committee of Ministers in the Alliance's "Group of Friends" Ministerial meeting held during the Forum. The Action Plan for the Balkans gives a specific mention to the Council of Europe as co-ordinator of the project "History as a tool for reconciliation". This was followed up through the launch of a history project by the North-South Centre and the Council of Europe in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 16-17 December (see page 13).

On 24 September, the Executive Director participated in the ministerial meeting of the "**Group of Friends**" of the Alliance of Civilisations, which took place in New York, and where the Council of Europe was represented at political level by the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers. This was an excellent occasion for highlighting the very substantial co-operation between the Council of Europe and the AoC, since the signing of their Co-operation Agreement in September 2008, and the specific role of the North-South Centre in this co-operation.

The Executive Director used the opportunity of his participation in the above mentioned meeting to participate in a series of events connected to the **High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals** – or MDG summit – which took place between 20-22 September. Besides the six plenary meetings and the six interactive round-table sessions which were held in parallel, more than 70 side events involving civil society, private sector, country delegations and high-level groups have been organized by the UN and other organizations during the MDG Summit. Among these, the Executive Director attended the workshops on "Women, peace and security" and on "The central role of education in the MDGs", organised by Switzerland and UNESCO respectively, as well as the BBC World debate, where the modalities for holding world leaders accountable for commitments made during the summit, including role of citizens in citizen monitoring of MDGs, were discussed.

Following this, the Executive Director participated, on behalf of both the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre, in the 5th meeting of the **Alliance of Civilisations' focal points**, which took place in Berlin on 26-27 October 2010, at the invitation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Germany. This meeting was mainly the occasion of reviewing the present situation of the AoC, after the Rio Forum in May and the New York ministerial meeting of the "group of friends".

The Alliance's strategy and action plan for the Mediterranean were adopted at its **Ministerial Conference** which took place on 8-9 November in La Valette (Malta). The Council of Europe and its North-South Centre were represented by the Executive Director of the latter at this conference.

In addition to the above mentioned activities, the North-South Centre contributed to, and participated in, the **1st Summer School of the Alliance of Civilisations**, organised at the University of Aveiro (Portugal) on 15-21 August, dedicated to the theme "Bridging Hearts, Opening Minds and Doing Things Together". This was the first experience of that kind for the Alliance, which built a network of several partners for this purpose, including the North-South Centre, the Aga Khan Development Network and the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI). It brought together over 100 participants from 44 countries to help build the skills of young people to participate in intercultural dialogue and reinforce the potential for co-operation and dialogue between diverse societies. The NSC Youth programme co-ordinator animated two working sessions on global education and intercultural dialogue on 17 August, and the Executive Director was one of the speakers at the closing session on 20 August, together with the UN High Representative, Jorge Sampaio, the President of EMUNI, Joseph Mifsud, the Dean of the Aveiro University, Manuel Antonio Assunção and the Aga Khan Development Network Representative in Portugal, Nazim Ahmad.

Finally, in 2010, the UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilisations, Mr Jorge Sampaio, continued his role as Chair of the North-South Centre's Annual Lisbon Forum. This partnership event took place on 4-5 November in Lisbon (see page 31).

With regard to other international partners, 2010 marked the first year of implementation of the **Co-operation Agreement** between the Council of Europe and the **MBI Al Jaber Foundation**, signed on 30 November 2009. The Agreement, aimed at strengthening Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-Arab regional co-operation and promoting education for human rights, rule of law, democratic citizenship and intercultural understanding, amounts to a contribution from the Al Jaber Foundation to the Council of Europe of 1 million euros over a four year period (2010-2013). The North-South Centre has been given the role of one of the major implementing partners of the Agreement, due to receive a share of 75,000 euros per year. In the framework of this Agreement, in 2010 the Centre has created a Think-Tank (see page 6).

On 9 September a meeting was set up between the NSC and **Global Tolerance** regarding a possible cooperation and partnership in the field of communication. Global Tolerance is based in the United Kingdom and identifies itself as a flag bearer for media ethics and a pioneer in sparking media coverage for inspiring social stories. Global Tolerance only works with organisations that strive for positive social change, providing strategic support, consultation and advising them to help increase their visibility and share their inspiration with the world. The meeting took place in Lisbon and it allowed both the NSC and Global Tolerance to present its work and activities more in depth. The conclusions of the meeting showed that there is a great potential for a fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation between the institutions. It was agreed that the cooperation should be initiated around concrete activities that will allow both partners to have immediate gains and get to know each other better.

In an address to the Council of Europe on 19 October on the occasion of the **60th Anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights**, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon declared that *“our universal compact on human rights needs to be reinforced. I see two ways to strengthen it indeed, to build on it for future generations. First, by seizing every opportunity to re-affirm the universality and indivisibility of human rights. Universality is the beating heart of the body of international human rights law as it has developed over the past six decades. When it comes to human rights, there should be no selectivity. Human rights are not a menu, from which we can pick and choose.”*

In addition he stressed *“While our standards are universal and unchanging, our methods should not remain static. That is why we must strengthen our compact on human rights through an approach rooted in an awareness of culture, time and place. We must respect cultural diversity – while never compromising our fundamental principles and never tolerating intolerance. Lasting social change ... including respect for human rights and particularly women's rights ... cannot be planted from afar. It must take root within societies. But we must nurture, encourage and support such steps.”*

Finally, in 2010, the North-South Centre continued its co-operation with the **GENE Network** (Global Education Network Europe). This was manifested through the participation of the Executive Director in a round table organised by the GENE in Helsinki on 22 October 2010 during which he presented the work of the Centre in the field of global education and made a number of proposals regarding future cooperation between the NSC and GENE. The discussions held were both substantial and constructive, and the prospect of signing a cooperation agreement between the two parties was endorsed. The Executive Director used the opportunity of his presence in Helsinki to have bilateral contacts with the Finnish authorities (see page 10).

3 PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

3.1 GLOBAL EDUCATION

The general aim of the North-South Centre's education programme is to raise European awareness of issues of global interdependence and solidarity through education and to promote co-operation and human contacts between Europe, the southern Mediterranean and Africa. More specifically, the objective is to support the development and enhancement of strategies and capacity-building for global education, targeting institutions and practitioners in the field of global education in the formal and non-formal sector.

During 2010, in addition to its core activities, the Centre's key priority in the field of global education was to continue with the implementation of the three year **Joint Management Agreement** signed with the European Commission in November 2008 (see page 12).

In this context, the series of **national seminars**, the aim of which is to strategically contribute to the policy development of global development education at national level, continued in 2010, following those which took place in 2009 in Bulgaria, Latvia, Estonia, Slovenia and Poland. The first to be held in 2010 was in **Lithuania** on 19 February. Entitled, "Opportunities and Perspectives of Global Education in Lithuania", the seminar was organised by the education association "Youth Academy", the Lithuanian Youth Centre, the National Platform of NGOs of Development Co-operation, the Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania and the Anna Lindh Foundation in Vilnius. The purpose of the seminar was to assess the state of global/development education in Lithuania and to raise public awareness, on the basis of the EU strategy "European Consensus on Development Education", as well as the Council of Europe's current process aimed at the adoption of a recommendation on global education. More than 60 government and NGO representatives, teachers of formal and non-formal education, university professors and others gathered to work on a common approach to developing and reinforcing a national multi-stakeholder process for global education and to assess the actual need for a national global/development education strategy and respective plan of action.

The second national seminar of 2010 took place in Valletta, **Malta**, on 10-11 May, organised by SKOP-the National Platform of Maltese NGOs. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together key Maltese stakeholders in the field and raise awareness on development education among governmental and non-governmental actors based on the EU strategy "European Consensus on Development Education" as well as the Council of Europe's current process towards adopting a recommendation on global education. One of the most important objectives of the seminar was to kick-start a national Development Education strategy for Malta. Approximately 150 people consisting of students, journalists, MEPs, foreign experts, representatives from civil society organisations, academia, ministries, governmental agencies, local and regional authorities, and NGOs participated in the seminar. The meeting resulted in the exchange of information, good practices and served as an opportunity to explore possibilities of co-operation among relevant stakeholders in development education. It contributed to the development of a greater capacity to carry out Development Education initiatives, to sanction multipliers and provide training for people interested in Development Education.

This was followed by a national seminar, held on 27-28 May in Bratislava, **Slovakia**. The meeting brought together around 40 participants from ministries, methodological pedagogical centres, governmental agencies, representatives from non-governmental organisations, dealing with global/development education at national, regional and local level, local authorities, as well as foreign experts from the Portuguese NGDO Platform (Plataforma) and the Czech NGDO Platform (FoRS), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). This seminar was organised by the Slovak NGDOs Platform and their members in co-operation and with the support of the North-South Centre. The meeting focused mainly on global education in the school curricula, co-operation between line ministries and the NGO sector, and

global education in universities. The particular issue of developing a national strategy towards improved global/development education in Slovakia was also raised and a working group was established between the governmental bodies, the research community and the NGO sector, which aims at developing an outline for a strategy in 2010/11.

The next seminar took place in the **Czech Republic** on 10-11 June. The seminar, organised by the Czech national platform of NDGOs, FORS, and supported by the North-South Centre, brought together representatives from civil society, educational organisations and the Czech Aid Agency to assess the situation of global education in Czech Republic. The aim of the meeting was also to examine the co-operation policy of the Czech Republic with European organisations such as the NSC, Concord and GENE, and share expertise in the evaluation of global education projects.

Following this, the North-South Centre, together with the FOND Working Group on Development Education organised a national seminar in **Romania** on 8-9 July. This seminar was held in partnership with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports and focused on “Setting the national framework for development education in Romania”. The objective of the seminar was to bring together key Romanian stakeholders in the field and raise awareness on development education among governmental and non-governmental actors in order to create a multi-stakeholder process to prepare the national global/development education strategy. Among participants invited were representatives from central and local authorities, ministries, civil society, academia and media.

The event focused on the communication and collaboration between NGOs and the governmental actors and the presentations covered interesting topics such as: theoretical approaches on development/ global education concepts, good practices in the field of development education in Europe, financial opportunities and the national context in development/global education.

The conclusions of the seminar emphasised the need for a common vision of the national community involved, on the two concepts of development education/global education as well as coherence and communication between all the relevant actors. FOND Working Group on Development Education will ensure the follow-up of this event by initiating and facilitating a national multi-stakeholder group including the participants from this seminar.

The next national seminar was held in Budapest, **Hungary** on 30 September, entitled “Global Education prospects in the Hungarian Education System”. The North-South Centre organised this seminar with the Anthropolis Anthropological Public Benefit Association, a member of the Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid (HAND). The seminar brought together approximately 40-50 participants for a series of panel discussions, roundtable sessions and workshops to give new impetus to the development of global education in Hungary and provide the space for key stakeholders to gain better knowledge, develop potential collaboration and share relevant information on development issues, global education topics and its European institutional background. The meeting was attended by representatives from Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs, educators from formal and non-formal education, parliamentarians, local authorities and international guests. This seminar build upon the work initiated by the global education working group of HAND, which in 2008 conducted a national survey on global education and a national multistakeholder roundtable in 2009, resulting in recommendations for the promotion and integration of global education in formal and non-formal education while having in view the elaboration of a national strategy and respective plan of action. The NSC gave an input on the role of European institutions in promoting national global education strategies, underlining main pedagogical and institutional challenges when introducing new pedagogies.

The last of the series of national seminars took place in Limassol, **Cyprus** on 22-23 October. The seminar was organised by the North-South Centre in partnership with the Cyprus NGDO Platform (CYINDEP), in close collaboration with the national coordinators for the Global Education Week as well as the Ministry of Education and Culture (Office for European and International Affairs) and CyprusAid/Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The seminar brought together teachers and NGOs working in the field of education and international development and included workshops and discussions on developing a strategy for promoting Global Education, a “Joint Vision Map”. The seminar strengthened the ties between the different stakeholders, which will help foster joint initiatives on Global Education within the Cypriot society in the future.

In addition to the series of national seminars, the Joint Management Agreement also foresees a series of regional seminars. The first one took place in Riga (Latvia) on 29-30 April. The seminar entitled “**Do It: Baltic Regional Seminar on Global/Development Education**” was organised by the North-South Centre in partnership with the Latvian NDGO Platform – LAPAS, in collaboration with the Estonian Roundtable for Development Co-operation (AKÜ), the Lithuanian Youth Centre (LYC), LITDEA - Lithuanian Network for Development Education and the Lithuanian National Platform of Development NGOs.

The aim of the meeting was to bring together the key stakeholders in the field and assess the state of global/development education in the Baltic countries of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia and raise public awareness on the basis of the EU strategy “European Consensus on Development Education” as well as the Council of Europe’s current process towards adopting a recommendation on global education. Some 80 representatives from ministries, governmental agencies, NGO’s dealing with global/development education, national local authorities and foreign experts gathered to work on preparing a comparison of best practise in the Baltic States to firmly establish global/development education on the education agenda. The meeting resulted in the promotion, interaction, discussion, and conclusion of future steps to take in the three development education areas as well as in national policy. Similar regional seminars for the Visegrad countries and countries of South East Europe are foreseen to take place in 2011.

The idea of organising national and regional seminars on global education/development education has contributed to reinforcing the role of national NGO platforms in their already active advocacy role for global education/development education, in some cases through the existence of global education/development education working groups and round tables taking the leadership for the foundation of strategic approaches to global education/development education and national plans of action. In all new member States of the EU there are today existing (formal or less formal) national NGO networks/working groups (mainly in the context of the NGO platforms) established for the promotion and enhancement of global education/development education at national and local level. However, formalised multi-stakeholder working groups (cross-cutting structures with GOs, LAs and NGOs etc) are less frequent in the new EU member States and were one of the main topics for discussion during the national seminars. In some countries, such as Estonia, Cyprus, Slovakia and Slovenia, the national meetings resulted in the initiation of a more continuous dialogue between key stakeholders in global education/development education at national level. In other countries the national meeting served as a reinforcement of exiting multi-stakeholder working groups for dialogue such as in the Czech Republic, Latvia and Poland. In all of the new member States of the EU, national reform processes and accession to the EU have initiated or pushed forward national commitment to development policy over the past decade. The strategic frameworks of this commitment are however quite diverse throughout the countries – ranging from vague non-binding guidelines to comprehensive, government-approved national strategies. With regard to global education/development education, binding national strategies (or equivalent) are still missing in most of the countries. Regardless of the existence of global education/development education national strategies and actions plans, nearly all of the national and regional seminars results stress that there is a lack of coherence in global education/development education approaches and activities.

The other key priority in 2010 in the field of global education was the continuation of the process leading to a **Committee of Ministers Recommendation on education for global interdependence and solidarity**. It is recalled that, following the formal decision to launch the process in March 2008 and an initial round of consultations and initial drafting, a first draft was presented to the CDED Bureau meeting in Strasbourg on 4-5 December 2008. The CDED Bureau decided to consult the various ad-hoc advisory groups in the field of education (citizenship education, history teaching, intercultural education) for a collective feedback on the draft recommendation in 2009. As a consequence, two experts were appointed by the Education Directorate and the NSC in order to assist the Secretariat to prepare a new draft incorporating the different comments. This new draft was presented at the CDED Bureau meeting in December 2009. Subsequently, a discussion was held at the CDED plenary session on 26 February 2010 which led to the following decisions. The CDED:

- took note of the presentations on the joint work (North-South Centre and CDED) carried out to date by the group of experts in charge of drafting the recommendation.
- reiterated its interest in continuing its co-operation with the North-South Centre and was of the opinion that the work on drafting the Recommendation should continue with a view to:
 - clearly highlighting the added-value which the recommendation would have for member States;
 - formulating in a clear and consistent manner the objectives, principles and measures relating to global citizenship and responsibility, which states should take into account when drawing up their education policies;
 - identifying the complementary role which the future recommendation could play in liaison with the draft Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education.

The Committee expressed the hope that the Secretariat would consider the possibility of including the theme of global interdependence and solidarity in its existing programme on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education and work with the North-South Centre on this issue. In conclusion, the Committee instructed its Bureau and the Secretariat, in co-operation with the Secretariat of the North-South Centre, to continue the drafting and finalisation of the text so that a revised draft, taking account of the discussions, could be presented at its next plenary session in 2011.

As a follow-up, a debriefing meeting took place in Lisbon on 19 May 2010, attended by representatives from CONCORD, the European Youth Forum, GENE, the European Commission, the Global Education Week Network, and a Member of the Working Group on the Global Education Guidelines. The objective was to update the NSC's key partners in the field of global education on the latest outcomes of the CDED's meeting and to receive feedback from them on the draft recommendation and how to proceed with the process further.

Furthermore, as a follow up to the CDED meeting in March, a revised draft of the Recommendation was discussed at the Bureau meeting of the CDED on 30 September in Strasbourg. The recommendation was presented as a complementary measure to the recently adopted Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education and it was agreed that this Recommendation will be presented to the Committee of Ministers in 2011 with the proposition that the main implementing body for the follow-up of the recommendation will be the NSC.

Following the launch of the **Global Education Guidelines** in 2009, the objective of the North-South Centre has been to make this a working tool for its intended target audience. This has been achieved through the organisation of a series of Global Education on-line training courses which started in 2009, followed by three additional sessions in 2010. These introductory online training courses on global education (GE) focussed in particular on human rights. The four-week online learning course involved 8 hours of learning per week and included assignments, discussions and responses to interactive exercises. It was based on approximately 150 pages of educational material that included a diversity of interactive individual and group exercises with coached assignments, a glossary and a virtual library. Exercises consist of team-building, mapping the situation of GE/HR in participants' countries, role-play for implementing GE/HR strategies and GE/HR activity development.

The overall evaluation from participants was very positive, with a high rating of satisfaction among the participants' evaluation questionnaire, considering participants' diverse professional and geographical background. With this on-line training course, the North-South Centre has reinforced its capacity-building dimension within its Global Education programme and reinforced its international networking strategy for more and better global education in Europe and beyond. It is also a contribution for the Council of Europe Intercultural Dialogue strategy.

The Global Education Guidelines were re-edited in 2010 and since October 2010 on-line and paper versions are available in English, French, Portuguese, Slovenian and Spanish. German, Italian and Polish versions are foreseen for the first quarter of 2011, followed by Arabic and Russian versions.

One of the permanent features in the North-South Centre's programme of activities regarding education is the annual **Global Education Week**. This event, which traditionally take place during the third week of November, encourages educational practitioners and activists to implement global education awareness-raising projects/activities in their working setting, reflecting on how to address globalisation and its impact in a holistic manner, including educational stakeholders perspectives from all parts of the world. The Global Education Week network of national contacts coordinate the event at national level by disseminating North-South Centre global education related information and by reporting back activities developed at national level. The Week is supported by an interactive global education webpage and electronic newsletter. The annual themes are proposed and selected in coordination with the Network, in the framework of the Millenium Development Goals. In 2010, the 12th edition of the Week took place on 13-21 November and was devoted to the theme : Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World.

As a follow-up to Global Education Week, an annual **evaluation seminar** is held. In 2010, it took place in Brussels on 5-6 November, in the framework of the European Development Days (EDD), 6-7 December. The aim of the evaluation seminar was to improve working synergies and to strengthen global education strategies at national level through the sharing of successful practices eveloped in the framework of the Global Education Week and to assess the recommendations and follow-up measures resulting from it. The seminar dates were selected in order to allow the Global Education Week network coordinators to participate in the European Development Days event (see below).

Another annual feature of the North-South Centre's education programme is the **World Aware Education Award**. This Award seeks to recognise and encourage projects which promote the practice of global education in formal and non-formal educational settings, displaying excellence in networking, partnership and coordination for increased and improved global education; bringing together different actors and institutions. In 2010, the Jury, which is composed of the Council of Europe's Conference of INGOs, the European Youth Forum and the Polish Platform of NGDO, Grupa Zagranica – three projects were proposed. The award ceremony took place on 7 December in Brussels in the framework of the European Development Days. The three winning projects were:

- Africa-Europe National Youth Councils Training Cooperation;
- Awareness for Fairness : joint action of public administration & NGO for the advancement of Global Education in Europe;
- Education for Rural Livelihoods and Food Sovereignty (ERLAFS) – ERLAFS report.

Throughout 2010, the North-South Centre's education team participated in and contributed to a variety of meetings, conferences and seminars, organised by its partners. These are listed in chronological order below.

On 3-5 February, the North-South Centre participated in the celebrations and the international scientific-practical **Conference under the auspices of UNESCO “PFUR – will get united by knowledge. The results of 50 years of the personnel training for the developing countries”** which took place at the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia in Moscow. The purpose was to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (PFUR) and the NSC had the opportunity of presenting the work of the Centre and to welcome the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia as the Russian national co-ordinator within the North-South Centre (NSC) Global Education Week Network. The event hosted about 100 universities from 50 countries, together with around 50 international organisations, and PFUR graduates. Alongside the plenary session, four parallel workshops took place on the subject of “Co-ordination and management of professional training at the national, regional and global levels”, “Contribution of students and students' organizations to the creation of tolerant environment in multinational universities”, “Education quality improvement and the role of ICTs in the establishment of global partnership” and “Recognition of qualifications in developing countries”. On 6 February the festive Gala Night “50th Anniversary of PFUR” took place in the State Kremlin Palace.

On 12 March, the Centre participated in the international seminar on **“Development co-operation in the post-2004 EU member states: the role of local and regional authorities”** organised by the PLATFORMA, the European association for local and regional authorities in development in Bucharest (Romania). The objective of the meeting was to explore how the local and regional authorities, in the framework of European commitments, can engage and contribute to the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and to map out the national strategies implemented in the post-2004 EU member states. One session of the seminar dealt specifically with the role of local authorities in development education and how they can act to raise citizens' awareness in this regard. The Centre had the opportunity to present its work during this session and, in the context of the Joint Management Agreement, present how global development education is promoted and supported in the new EU member states, while exploring prospects for an increased participation of local authorities in this regard.

On 16-17 March, the North-South Centre participated in the launch of the British Council's initiative **“Connecting Classrooms Europe”** in Greenwich (United Kingdom). Participants were able to discuss the new initiative of the British Council and establish a framework for the implementation of this project at the national level.

On 15 April, the Centre participated in the international seminar on the **“Coherence of multi- and bilateral development co-operation in the case of the Euro-Mediterranean region”** organised by the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), Slovenian NGO platform for Global Action (SLOGA) and the European Association of Development Institutes (EADI) in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The meeting was attended by 50 representatives from European research institutes, NGO's, Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Development Co-operation and international organisations. The objective was to bring together different key partners in the Euro-Mediterranean region and exchange views on the coherence and complementarity of European (EU) regional development cooperation and to identify possible areas for joint action. The meeting resulted, inter alia, in concrete talks with representatives from EADI and EMUNI respectively, on future co-operation activities with the NSC. On 16 April, bilateral meetings were held between the NSC

representative and Slovenian representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education on the promotion of global education in Slovenia and on the South Eastern European Strategy of the Alliance of Civilization with Ambassador Kovačič from the Slovenian MFA.

On the same day, the Executive Director participated in a Conference on **“the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union”** in Coimbra University, organised by the European Commission Representation in Portugal, in the context of the 1st National Meeting of Students of European Studies. The Executive Director made a presentation on the theme: “Interaction between the Council of Europe and the European Commission for the Protection of Human Rights, including Social Rights”.

On 22 April, the Centre participated in the launch of the **Portuguese national strategy for Development Education (ENED)** which took place in the framework of the annual Portuguese Development Days event (see page 33). The ceremony was opened by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation who reiterated his full support for the DE strategy and praised the inclusive process leading to its formulation. The strategy aims at introducing ED in the formal and non formal educational system as well as political lobbying and its implementation will be monitored through an agreed plan of action from 2010 to 2015. The North-South Centre used this opportunity to provide information on the portuguese version of the Global Education Guidelines and the Global Education on-line training course.

On 13-16 May, the North-South Centre participated in the **Rosario International Congress** (Argentina) which brought together international and Latin American stakeholders under the theme “Challenges for participatory democracy and citizenship learning in the 21st Century”. The Centre presented its work developed in the field of Global Education policy-making, capacity-building and awareness-raising. Over 70 presentations were made, covering experiences developed in the field of participatory democracy by local authorities, civil society, formal education structures (universities and schools). The role of media and new technologies as spaces of participatory democracy was also addressed. The Congress provided the opportunity of exploring the possibilities of expanding the NSC Global Education Week networking mechanism to Latin American stakeholders and practitioners.

On 20 May 2010, the Centre participated in the meeting of the **European multistakeholder steering group (MSH)** on development education held in Lisbon. During the meeting, the final draft of the European Development Education Report “DE Watch” was presented. The report aims at presenting trends in development education policy and funding in the EU member states and to provide policy recommendations based on best/worst practises analysed in the paper. It was co-funded through contributions from Concord/DEEEP, the Portuguese Institute for Development Assistance (IPAD), the Finnish Ministry of Education, the Norwegian NGDO platform on development education (RORG) and the NSC. Also on the agenda was the participation of the MSH in the European Commission’s strategy process on Development Education and Awareness Raising (DE/AR study) and the role of DE/AR in the EC structured dialogue, the contribution of the MSH to the 2010 European Development Day in December 2010 and the 2011 Development Education Summer School on Quality in Finland.

On 8 October in Potsdam, Germany, the North-South Centre participated in the annual meeting of the **Working Group for Information and Education of the Bund-Länder Committee** (federal states and regions committee) **on Development Cooperation** which was organised under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, Empowerment, Care and Elderly of the North Rhine-Westphalia State and the Ministry for Economy and European Affairs of Brandenburg. The conference brought together ministry representatives of the German ‘Länder’ responsible for regional implementation of global education and learning activities/projects, NGO platforms and networks, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German UNESCO Commission, to discuss current developments in Germany as regard global education and learning and to be updated on the present restructuring of the development institutions operated by the BMZ. The NSC was invited to present its work in the field of

global education and to explore areas of common interest and possible cooperation with German key actors in the field of global learning.

On 11-12 October, the Centre was invited as one of the key stakeholders to the **Conference of the Study on the Experience and Actions of the Main European Actors in the Field of Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR)** in Brussels. This consultative conference was organised by the European Commission with the purpose to present the recently published DEAR Study and to contribute to the development of suggestions that will improve the European Commission's support for development educations and awareness raising efforts in the European Union and its member states. The conference was attended by 120 participants representing governments (Ministries of foreign affairs and education), government agencies, civil society organisations and networks with an interest in DEAR, representatives of local and regional authorities working for development, European Parliament, academics and DEAR practitioners etc. The conference was also addressed by the European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, presenting the EU priorities as regards development. The meeting resulted in group and plenary discussions on the need to develop long and short-term approaches to planning and collaboration that enables governments, organisations and others to make complementary contribution to promoting public awareness raising and education for development in the EU and its member States.

On 23-30 August, the North-South Centre took part in the closing debate of the first **European School Student Summer Camp** organised by **OBESSU** (Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions) in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The focus of this Summer Camp was Global Education and Human Rights. The topic of the closing debate "The place of young people and students in defending peace-building, democracy and human rights", shared by the North-South Centre and OSCE representatives, led to a fruitful exchange with the participants on questions related to global citizenship education, education in multicultural contexts and the role of school students and youth associations in the practice and the protection of intercultural dialogue in their life contexts. OBESSU is a member of the NSC's Global Education Week Network, and thus relays information on the Centre's work and its respective educational tools in the field of global education throughout this network of European Schools Students Unions.

On 22 October, the Executive Director participated in a round table organised by the **Global Education Network Europe (GENE)** in Helsinki. He presented the work of the North-South Centre in the field of global education and made a number of proposals regarding future cooperation between the NSC and GENE. The discussions held were both substantial and constructive, and the prospect of signing a cooperation agreement between the two parties was endorsed.

As in previous years, the North-South Centre participated in and contributed to the annual **European Development Days (EDD)** events, the leading European Forum where the questions and issues about international development co-operation are debated. The 2010 event (the 5th edition) was organised by the European Commission and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and took place on 6-7 December in Brussels. During the event, the North-South Centre had a stand for the promotion of Global Education and organised a side-event under the theme "Do Europeans Care about the Rest of the World?". The North-South Centre used the opportunity to hold its World Education Award Ceremony in the framework of the Development Days event (see above).

Finally, on 15-16 December, the North-South Centre participated in the **Anna Lindh Foundation seminar** "Education and intercultural learning" which took place in Cairo, gathering representatives from important programmes supported by the Foundation, and institutions that have been engaged with the Anna Lindh Foundation in the field of education during the past years. The seminar objective, based on the assessment of ALF work developed so far, was to establish priorities in the field of intercultural education and have an indicative road-map for Anna Lindh to build on its future work with its networks. The Centre

was invited to moderate and report one of the working session dealing with pedagogical tools for intercultural/interreligious dialogue.

3.1 YOUTH

The general aim of the North-South Centre's youth programme is to raise European awareness of issues of global interdependence and solidarity and to promote co-operation and human contacts between Europe, the southern Mediterranean and Africa. More specifically, the objective is to provide training and capacity building for young people and youth organisations as well as to facilitate policy action on youth in development policies, reinforcing the role of youth as a dynamic force in the field of North-South interdependence.

2010 marked the second year of implementation of the **Africa Europe Youth Co-operation Programme**. This programme is a follow-up to the **Africa Europe Youth Summit** organised in Lisbon in December 2007 on the initiative of the North-South Centre and foresees activities in the framework of both the Joint Management Agreement with the European Commission and the new Euro African dimension of the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission (see page 13).

In the framework of the JMA, the North-South Centre is organising a series of **sub-regional seminars on youth policies and the African Youth Charter** in the regions of West, East and Southern Africa. Following the two held in 2009 in Ethiopia and Cape Verde, the third one regarding southern Africa took place in Luanda, Angola from 29 March-1 April 2010. This was co-organised by the North-South Centre with the Portuguese National Youth Council (NYC) and was hosted by the National Youth Council of Angola, in close co-operation with the Pan-African Youth Union. The seminar brought together representatives from around 10 southern African countries, and focused its discussions on the importance of national youth councils and the implementation of the African Youth Charter, in particular in view of the 2nd Europe-Africa Youth Summit which took place on 26-28 November in Tripoli (Libya).

The three sub-regional seminars which have taken place to date have all targeted youth leaders from African national youth councils and national representatives of international youth organisations active in the various regions of Africa. The common objectives of the seminars were to discuss the implementation of the African Youth Charter and to identify the major challenges and situation of African youth policies in respective sub-regions of Africa. The participants of all the seminars underlined the importance of organising such meetings, which have effectively led to the strengthening of sub-regional networks of national youth councils in Africa which are also members of the Pan-African Youth Union, the main umbrella platform in Africa for national youth councils.

Equally, the seminars have acted as incentive to, and in some cases pressure on, national authorities for the ratification of the African Youth Charter adopted in 2006 and for the development and revision of structured national youth policies plans. In addition, two other networks have come into existence since the launch of the seminars and the Joint Management Agreement as a whole, namely, the creation of the African Diaspora Youth Network Europe (ADYNE) and the network of Trainers for Africa Europe Co-operation (TAEC). The final two sub-regional seminars will take place in 2011.

In the framework of the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission, the Centre organised the **7th Africa Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations** in Polokwane, Limpopo, South Africa, on 23-30 May. This training course was carried out in co-operation with the Africa Institute of South Africa, the European Youth Forum and the Pan African Youth Union. Thirty-five European and African youth leaders and activists engaged in youth organisations participated in this event which was aimed at promoting the capacity of youth organisations to take part in the EU-Africa Strategic

Partnership and particularly to prepare and give input to the second Africa-Europe Youth Summit which was held later in the year on 26-28 November in Tripoli, Libya.

The participants of the Training Course drafted a declaration containing recommendations which call for the urgent need to address challenging issues that are affecting the lives and wellbeing of the youth in Africa and Europe. The recommendation also calls for the need for the active participation of youth in decision-making.

In the course of 2010, the North-South Centre also continued with its organisation and contribution to the series of Universities.

The first was the **7th University on Participation and Citizenship**, held on 15-21 March in Campamento Artigas (Uruguay). This University, together with the African University on Youth and Development, is a sister University of the Global University on Youth and Development, organised annually by the North-South Centre in Mollina (Spain). This year's University on Participation and Citizenship was organised by the Latin American Alliance of YMCA's, the Latin American Youth Forum and the Iberoamerican Space for Youth, in partnership and with the support of the North-South Centre. It brought together close to 170 youth leaders and youth workers from Latin America and from Europe involved in a series of training courses and activities aimed at political youth participation and action. The agenda items included the preparations of the UN International Year of Youth, the World Conference of Ministers of Youth (to be held in August in Mexico) and the preparations of the forthcoming 1st Euro-Latina American and Caribbean Youth Summit. In the framework of the University, the North-South Centre organised a meeting of the core Partners of the University on Youth and Development, took part in the Steering Group of the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Youth Summit and facilitated some of the plenary sessions of the 7th University.

This was followed by the **2nd African University on Youth and Development** held in Praia, Cape Verde, on 4-12 July. The North-South Centre co-organised this event with the Cape Verde Federation of Youth, the Portuguese National Youth Council, the Pan-African Youth Union, the European Youth Forum and the Youth Forum of Portuguese Speaking Countries, with the political and financial support of the European Commission, Luxembourg and Portugal. The aim of the university was to create a space for debate and reflection; affirmative youth action and the promotion of youth policies; global education and awareness raising for development; training and non-formal education; as well as intercultural and inter-regional dialogue in the context of Euro-African youth co-operation. The University was the opportunity to bring together youth organizations and their elected representatives from Africa and Europe, to share, to learn and to participate. This learning space has been a successful example for the possibilities of the implementation of the Africa-EU Strategic partnership. This year's university also created a momentum in Africa-Europe co-operation, in view of the 3rd Africa-EU Summit which took place later in the year on 26-28 November in Tripoli (Libya).

Finally, the last University of the year was the **11th University on Youth and Development** which took place between 12-19 September, dedicated to the theme "Sustainable development and how it relates to human rights and fundamental freedom". The North-South Centre organised the University in co-operation with the Spanish Government (INJUVE), the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Spanish Youth Council (CJE) and other international youth organisations. Around 250 participants from a variety of 80 countries attended this year's university, which was also held in the context of the UN International Year of Youth.

Since the first edition in 2000, the Mollina University brings together representatives of youth organisations and movements around the world to promote youth participation in decision-making processes and elaboration of cooperation policies for the Integral Global Development. This year's

participants addressed the issue of sustainable development and its relation to human rights, fundamental freedoms, peace and development as priorities for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The key role played by youth and youth organisations in this process was highlighted during the course. The participants also used the opportunity of the University to contribute to the Campaign “Stand Up and Make Noise”, aimed at showing world leaders, gathered at the United Nations for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Review Summit in September, that ordinary citizens “.. will no longer stay seated or silent in the face of poverty!”.

Also in the context of the 11th University on Youth and Development, upon the invitation of the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Centre attended a **multistakeholder meeting** organised on 16 September, to give an update on relevant global education policy frameworks developed by European organisations, to explore prospect for a coherent advocacy approach and to further agree on a co-operation agenda. The meeting was hosted by the YFJ Global Education Working Group and attended by representatives from Developing Europeans Engagement for the Eradication of Poverty (DEEEP), Global Education Network of Young Europeans (GLEN), the Portuguese Youth Council (CNJ); Slovenian Youth Council and representatives from Erasmus Mobility Programme. This multistakeholder group also includes representatives from Amnesty International; CoE EDC-HRE Programme; HREA (Human Rights Education Associates) and World Scouts Movement.

On the same day, the Centre also participated in a consultative meeting, together with the colleagues from the secretariat of the Youth Partnership, with the European Commission on the future geographical priorities within the joint Eu-CoE programme in the youth field. During the discussions with the EC representatives on African cooperation and EuroMed cooperation, special attention was given to an exchange on priorities and actions in the various structures, within the European Commission (DG EAC, DG RELEX, DG DEV...), the Council of Europe (NSC, DYS) and the EU-CoE youth partnership, particularly with regard to the issue of planning and co-ordination of different activities within the current EU-CoE Youth Partnership Agreement for 2010-2013.

2010 saw two **Youth Summits**, namely the 1st Euro-Latin.American and Caribbean Youth Summit and the 2nd Africa Europe Youth Summit.

On 11 February, the North-South Centre participated in the first meeting of the **Preparatory Committee for the EU-Latin America and Caribbean Youth Summit** in Madrid. The aim of the meeting was to start preparations for the Youth Summit which took place on 7-9 May in Madrid in relation with the EULAC Summit of Heads of State, organised under the Spanish Presidency of the EU on 18 May. A second meeting of the preparatory Committee was held in March in the framework of University on Participation and Citizenship in Uruguay.

As a follow-up, the North-South Centre participated in the **Euro-Latin-American and Caribbean Youth Summit** which took place in Madrid from 7-9 May. The Summit brought together 175 youth leaders and institutions from these regions to discuss the responses to the challenges faced by youth people. The representatives of the youth movement presented their final declaration and conclusions to the IV EULAC Summit of Heads of State and Government held on 17-18 May, also in Madrid. The Youth Summit was hosted by the Spanish Youth Council (CJE), in partnership with the respective regional youth platforms (European Youth Forum, Latin American Youth Forum, Iberoamerican Youth Space, Caribbean Federation of Youth Revitalization Committee).

The North-South Centre contributed to this event by giving financial support and being part of the preparatory Committee that conceived and facilitated the Summit. The support of the North-South Centre was particularly directed to the facilitation of the Summit and the pedagogical dynamics of the activities, mobilising the expertise generated by the organisation of Africa Europe Youth Summit in 2007. A follow-

up meeting of the FEULAC (Euro Latin-American and Caribbean Forum) was held at the University on Youth and Development in September 2010, with the support of the Centre.

One of the key moments of the year in the youth calendar was **the 2nd Africa-Europe Youth Summit** which was held in Tripoli, Libya, on 26-28 November, preceding the 3rd Africa-EU Summit, at the same location, on 29-30 November. The Youth Summit was designed to offer to young people and youth organisations from Africa and Europe the opportunity to strengthen their dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues and to make recommendations to Heads of State or Government for the development of the Africa-EU strategic partnership. With the 1st Youth Summit, in 2007, good progress was made in increasing the dialogue and cooperation between African and European young people and youth organisations, empowering them to act in partnership and to contribute to the Africa-Europe cooperation and a similar follow-up is foreseen to the 2nd Summit.

3.3 INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

The aim of the North-South Centre's intercultural dialogue programme is to use dialogue to contribute to the development of familiarity, mutual understanding and ties between the different players in European and southern Mediterranean societies. As far as possible, this dialogue is extended to the African continent for which special activities are also implemented.

Following the accession of **Morocco** to the North-South Centre on 1 July 2009, the Centre organised an **awareness-raising seminar** in Rabat on 22-23 February 2010, entitled **“Perspectives for co-operation between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Council of Europe”**. The aim of the seminar, organised in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, was to evaluate the existing co-operation between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Council of Europe and to explore the possibilities of a substantial reinforcement of this co-operation. The seminar was officially opened by Mr Taïb Fassi-Fihri, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Morocco, Mrs Maud de Boer Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and Mrs Deborah Bergamini, Chair of the North-South Centre, in the presence of the Prime Minister, Presidents of both chambers of the Moroccan Parliament and several government members.

The first day of the seminar focused on the actors, structures, and priorities of this co-operation before moving on to the National Initiative for Human Development and legal reform in Morocco. The second day was devoted to a debate on the promotion of North-South co-operation under the theme of intercultural dialogue, education, youth and sport. The closing session dealt with the development of co-operation between the Council of Europe and Morocco and the strengthening of relations between the European Union and Morocco.

The Moroccan authorities used the opportunity of the seminar to confirm the participation of their country in the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (as from 1 March 2010), as well as to request membership in the Pompidou Group and participation in the PACE “Partnership for Democracy”.

The importance of Morocco's co-operation with the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre was recognised during the first **European Union – Morocco Summit** held on 8 March in Granada with the participation of the Spanish Head of Government, José Luís Rodríguez Zapatero, the Permanent President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Durão Barroso, and the Prime Minister of Morocco, Abbas El Fassi. Both parties evaluated the progress realised since the signing of the “Advanced Status” in October 2008, and paved the way for further steps to deepen their relationship. In this context, they “noted with satisfaction the promising perspectives of co-operation opened between Morocco and the Council of Europe, notably following the accession of Morocco to the North-South Centre to the Council of Europe”.

On 4-7 March, the Executive Director of the North-South Centre represented the Council of Europe and the North-South Centre at the 2010 Forum of the **Anna Lindh Foundation** which took place in Barcelona. The Forum brought together hundreds of representatives of civil society organisations, NGOs, cultural institutions, educational bodies, universities, media, local authorities and regional networks from almost all of the 43 Union for the Mediterranean countries. The high-level of participation included the Spanish Foreign Minister Moratinos, the President of the Anna Lindh Foundation André Azoulay, the UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations Jorge Sampaio, the European Union's Commissioner of Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy, Stefan Fülle, and the new Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, Ahmad Masa'deh.

The Forum combined debates on key issues at the core of intercultural relations between people in the region, as well as the first platform for the different National Civil Society Networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation to share ideas, develop new partnerships and prepare new action at local and transnational level. The Executive Director's participation in the 2nd plenary session on 6 March offered an excellent opportunity to promote the CoE and the NSC's action aimed at developing intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region, on the basis of the White Paper "Living together as equals in dignity". The Forum concluded with the commitment of some 1,000 civil society organisations to a common road map for restoring trust in shared values. The Forum also coincided with the launching of the new Secretariat of the Union of the Mediterranean which took place on 4 March.

In March 2010, the North-South Centre was nominated as one of the 3 nominees for the **Rock in Rio Lisbon 2010 Sustainable Attitude Prize** in the cultural diversity category. This nomination was made by Jorge Sampaio, High Representative of the UN Alliance of Civilisations. The social project of Rock in Rio 2010, under the sustainable development thematic, has created the "Rock in Rio Sustainable Attitude Prize" with the goal to reward people and organisations who have distinguished themselves for a better quality of community life, at the local and national level, acting in line with the three pillars of sustainable development (environmental, social and economic).

On 8-11 April, the Chair of the Executive Council attended the **Annual Conference of COPEAM** (Permanent Conference of the Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators) in Paris, hosted by the INA (National Audiovisual Institute), under the High Patronage of the President of the French Republic. The aim of the Conference, which brought together around 200 media representatives from the Euro-Mediterranean region, was to focus on the challenges of the Mediterranean media sector and find ways to reinforce its impact. The Chair used this opportunity to discuss prospects for strengthening co-operation with France, in particular withing the Cultural Council for the Mediterranean.

On 3-4 May, the Executive Director participated, on behalf of both the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre, in the **international conference on "religious freedom in democratic societies"** organised in Cordoba by the Spanish EU Presidency and the UN Alliance of Civilisations. Around 200 experts, politicians and religious leaders were present, representing EU and candidate countries, as well as European institutions. The Executive Director took part, on behalf of the Council of Europe, at the restricted informal dinner on 2 May, chaired by the Spanish State Secretary for European Affairs, and then at the first plenary session dedicated to the theme : "Do democracies need to rethink about religious pluralism?". He also participated - on behalf of the NSC - in the last of the four panels which followed in parallel, where the themes of "Religious pluralism in democratic societies", "The role of religious leaders in promoting a culture of peace", "Preventing religious radicalism and extremism" and "Co-operating to promote religious freedom" were analysed.

Participants called for the promotion of education initiatives to prevent manifestations of violence, underlining that governments must show equal respect for all religions, but, above all, give precedence to "universal and indivisible" human rights. They were in favour of European societies introducing

educational initiatives to promote tolerance and respect for diversity, or developing training programmes for police, teachers and social workers. They also proposed drafting codes of practice for journalists and promoting public diplomacy operations intended to prevent religious extremism. They agreed on the need for European institutions and member States to avoid politicising judicial debates, and to differentiate between judicial issues and those subject to political decision-making. Concerning the role of religious leaders, the final plenary session underlined the importance of peace, defined "not as the absence of conflict but as peace alongside social justice," and stressed the work of such personalities in building post-conflict peace and in preventing conflicts.

The conclusions of the four panels of experts were conveyed to the UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilisations, Jorge Sampaio, and formed part of the working material of the Third Forum of the Alliance of Civilisations, held in Rio de Janeiro on 27-29 May (see page 14). Moreover, following the decision of the Executive Council to choose "Freedom of expression, conscience and religion" as the theme for the 2010 Lisbon Forum, it was decided to link the follow-up of the Cordoba Conference to this year's Lisbon Forum (see page 31).

On 19 May, the North-South Centre contributed to the first seminar organised by the **Luso-American Foundation** in the framework of its GEEMA project (the Study Group On Euro-Med-Atlantic Affairs) on the theme "Women Entrepreneurs in the Maghreb region". The objective of the seminar was to promote the debate and the exchange of experiences on diverse subjects linked to the condition of women, touching on issues such as the growing role of women in the socio-economic fabric of the North African society (and how this has had an impact on their status), the growing demand for equal opportunity (and if this objective has been reached by governments), as well as the impact of the entry of women in the workforce. The first conference of this series was dedicated to Morocco and concentrated on the constraints and opportunities that characterise Portugal, the United States and Morocco itself. Mrs Deborah Bergamini, Chair of the Executive Council, spoke during the opening session of the seminar, together with Mrs Karima Benyaich, Ambassador of Morocco to Lisbon and Mrs Mbarka Bouaida, Moroccan Parliamentarian and member of the North-South Centre Think-Tank.

On 2-3 July, the Executive Director participated in the **1st Assembly of the Citizens of the Mediterranean** in Valencia, Spain. This 1st Assembly, entitled "Mediterranean Dialogue: Institutions and Citizenship of the Mediterranean", brought together institutions engaged in the Euromed process. The aim was to create a space for reflexion and debate on the rights and responsibilities of Mediterranean citizens and to identify and examine the current and future challenges facing the people in this region. At the end of the Assembly, a Charter, aimed at creating an "Assembly of the citizens of the Mediterranean" was adopted.

Following the accession of Azerbaijan to the North-South Centre on 1 August (see page 8), the North-South Centre joined the Task-Force set up by the authorities of Azerbaijan to organise the **Baku World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue** which will take place in Baku on 7-9 April 2011. The objectives of the Forum, being held under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO, are the advancement of intercultural understanding, mutual respect, and co-operation among different civilizations through culture and heritage, as well as carrying the purpose of forging partnerships in order to build substantive interaction between diverse communities and to strengthen trust and reconciliation across cultures. The Executive Director of the North-South Centre participated in two preparatory Task Force meetings on 12 September (Paris) and 18 December (Strasbourg).

Finally, the North-South Centre and the Council of Europe, launched a **history project** to be carried out in the framework of the Alliance of Civilisations' Action Plan for the Balkans. The kick-off seminar was hosted by the authorities of Slovenia on 16-17 December in Ljubljana. The seminar brought together

representatives from Ministries of Education in South East Europe as well as members of national history teaching associations and international experts in the field of history teaching. The aim was to take stock of the reforms in progress implemented by the governments in the SEE region, share good practices and to identify priority issues and reflect on co-operation which could be developed in the SEE region in the field of history teaching. In particular the need of supplementary pedagogical materials and capacity building activities/trainings for history teachers was raised at the meeting. A final report of the meeting will be published in spring 2011.

4 PERMANENT PROCESSES

4.1 NORTH-SOUTH PRIZE

The North-South Prize of the Council of Europe has been awarded annually since 1995 to two public figures who are recognised for their deep commitment, outstanding achievements and/or the hope they have generated in the field of individual rights protection, the defence of pluralist democracy and North-South solidarity and partnership. The Jury of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe decided to award the 2009 North-South Prize to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev (the Russian Federation) and Ms Rola Dashti (Kuwait). The **Prize Ceremony** took place in Lisbon on 18 May as part of the Official Ceremony of the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre. The high-level participation included the President of the Republic of Portugal, the President of Iceland, the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the former President of the Parliamentary Assembly, the President of the Portuguese Assembly of the Republic, the Minister for the Presidency and the State Secretary for European Affairs of Portugal, as well as a significant number of former North-South Prize winners.

The Prize was presented by the President of the Republic of Portugal to Ms Dashti and to Ambassador Alekseev, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the Council of Europe, representing Mr Gorbachev who was unable to attend the Ceremony in person due to health reasons. Guests at the Prize Ceremony were nevertheless able to watch the acceptance message which Mr Gorbachev sent by video link. The Ceremony received considerable media coverage, on television and radio and in the press across Europe.

The call for nominations for the **2010 North-South Prize** was launched at the end of January, with a deadline of 6 June 2010. A total of 66 nominations were received, among which almost one third are presented by NSC stakeholders or institutional partners. The jury of the Prize, which is made up of the members of the Bureau of the Executive Council and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, met on 25 June in Strasbourg. Following discussions and contacts which took place during the summer, the decision was taken to award the 2010 Prize to Ms Louise Arbour (Canada) and Mr Luis Inácio Lula da Silva (Brazil). The Prize Ceremony will take place in Lisbon on 29 March 2011, in conjunction with the 45th meeting of the Executive Council (28 March 2011).

4.2 LISBON FORUM

The Lisbon Forum is a platform for dialogue and for sharing experiences, expertise and good practices between Europe and the other continents, especially the Middle East, Africa and the countries on the south side of the Mediterranean. The Forum has been held by the North-South Centre since 1994 on an annual basis. It focuses on issues at the heart of the mandate and actions of the Council of Europe: human rights, democratic governance and the rule of law. In recent years, it has been enriched by partnerships with the Commission for Democracy through Law of the Council of Europe (the Venice Commission) and with the UN Alliance of Civilisations, whose Special Representative, Jorge Sampaio, who is now its Chair.

The 2008 Lisbon Forum was devoted to “the principle of universality of human rights and its implementation at international and regional level” and marked the launch of a new process with the adoption of a work programme for future years, focussing on the promotion, understanding and strengthening of human rights, as well as on present and future challenges in this field. At its meeting of 29 January 2010, the Bureau shortlisted, on a preliminary basis, the following themes for the 2010 Lisbon Forum:

- Liberties, responsibilities, rights and ethics;
- Freedom of expression, conscience and religion;
- The principle of equality between women and men.

and entrusted the Secretariat to prepare an outline for these themes in due time before the Executive Council’s 2010 spring meeting. During its 43rd meeting on 17 May, the Executive Council decided that the theme of the 2010 Lisbon Forum will be “**Freedom of expression, conscience and religion**”. On this occasion, the Executive Council also entrusted the Think-Tank with the task of providing assistance and advice to the Secretariat in the preparation and follow-up of the 2010 Lisbon Forum.

The Forum took place on 4-5 November in the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon and was organised in partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network and the Alliance of Civilisations, whose High Representative, Mr Jorge Sampaio, is Chair. The event attracted around 150 participants from a variety of 48 countries and representatives of international organisations including OHCHR, ODHIR, UNESCO and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. Speakers included the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Secretary of State for European Affairs of Portugal, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, the Vice-President of the European Parliament and, of course, the Chair of the Lisbon Forum, Mr Jorge Sampaio. This event benefited from the financial support of the European Commission and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

The aim of the Forum was to examine the relations, interactions and tensions between two fundamental freedoms in a democratic society: the freedom of expression, and the freedom of conscience and religion. A link was made to the conclusions of the international conference on "religious freedom in democratic societies" organised by the Spanish EU Presidency and the UN Alliance of Civilisations (Cordoba, 3-4 May) and with the Council of Europe’s annual exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue (Ohrid, 13-14 September). Simultaneous working sessions were held on the following themes:

- Religious pluralism in democratic societies
- The role of religious leaders in the promotion of a culture of peace
- The prevention of radicalisation and religious extremism
- International co-operation for the promotion of religious freedom

and a wide range of experts contributed to the debates held on these specific subjects. The discussions showed that freedom of expression, conscience and religion are among the foundations of democratic societies and are instrumental for the pluralism which characterises them, with special regard to the protection of religious minorities over the world. In this context, the participants welcomed the initiative taken by the governments of Italy and Spain, in the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations, to organize the international seminar on “Religious Freedom: human rights, social inclusion and political participation. The case of Christian Communities” aimed at raising awareness on the situation of cultural and religious minorities in different parts of the world and supported the idea that further action on this issue should be undertaken.

4.3 CONTRIBUTION OF THE NSC TO INTERNATIONAL DAYS

On the occasion of **International Women's Day** (8 March 2010), the Chair of the Executive Council, Mrs Deborah Bergamini, issued the following declaration:

“Each year, International Women's Day encourages us to take stock of the situation of women in the world: 2010 is a special milestone as we celebrate its 100th Anniversary, as well as the 15th Anniversary of the Beijing Conference. A long road has been travelled, but we are not yet able to declare ourselves satisfied with the results obtained.

In 1995, the issue of reinforcing the empowerment of women and their advancement, in order to guarantee them the opportunity to fully realize their potential within society and to organize their life according to their own choices, had been put at the heart of the political agenda of United Nations member States. Five years later, this priority was confirmed by the Millennium Declaration. Today, it is clear that even if the condition of women has improved, the progress has been uneven, and the disparities between men and women persist; in the words of this year's theme, we have not yet reached a situation of "Equal rights, equal opportunities [that ensure] progress for all."

Moreover, violence against women continues to be largely widespread throughout the world. All the initiatives to fight against this scourge are welcome, and the awareness raising actions are particularly important. On this issue, the contest “Action for Women”, that I launched in September 2009, aimed at young European directors in the context of the 66th Venice Film Festival, in partnership with Google and YouTube, has today reached its conclusion. I am rejoiced, as Chair of the North-South Centre and Co-ordinator for Italy of the Council of Europe Campaign against domestic violence, by the immense involvement of youth in this initiative, who give us hope for a better future.

This future will be built on positive examples, which are important to highlight. In this respect, I would like to remind that the 2009 North-South Prize will be officially awarded in May in Lisbon, along with Mr Mikhael Gorbatchev, to Mrs Dashti, a leading activist in the Arab world, and one of the four women elected for the first time to the Parliament of Kuwait in April 2009. The example of Cape Verde, who on the eve of its official accession to the North-South Centre, comprises of eight women ministers on a government team of 16 members, is also to be commended”.

4.4 PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENT DAYS

On 20-21 April, the North-South Centre took part in the **2010 Portuguese Development Days**, an annual event promoted by the Portuguese Institute for Development Support (IPAD, Instituto Português de Apoio ao Desenvolvimento) of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Portugal. This year's theme was “Citizenship and Development” and the aim was to strengthen the debate and reflection of citizens on the current challenges in terms of development. During the two days, government representatives, civil society organizations, local and regional authorities, universities, and the public at large were able to attend a variety of conferences, expositions and round-tables. As in previous years, the North-South Centre had an information stand to disseminate information to the Portuguese public on the work and priorities of the Centre and the Council of Europe, as a whole.

In the framework of the Development Days, the Centre co-organised, together with the Portuguese NGO “Associação para a cooperação entre os povos” (ACEP), the New University of Lisbon (UNL – Universidade Nova de Lisboa) and the Portuguese Institute for Aid and Development (IPAD), a **Conference on “Media, Citizenship and Development”** (21 April). During the conference, a documentary with interviews of several national and international personalities from the media world, based on the main themes of the debate: Media and the Image of the Other; Media and Development Aid;

Media, Citizenship, and Society; Development of Media and Journalism, was shown. The Chair of the Executive Council featured in the documentary, in which she discussed the role of the media in the prevention of domestic violence and her initiative “Action for Women”, a cinema competition she launched in 2009 on this theme.

5 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

The core period of the celebrations of the North-South Centre’s 20th Anniversary started in November 2009 (20th anniversary of the creation of the Centre by decision of the Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg) and ended in May 2010 (20th anniversary of the setting up of the Centre in Lisbon).

In conformity with the strategic document adopted in spring 2008 by the Centre’s statutory bodies, the main project for the 20th Anniversary was to prepare a **new statutory resolution** to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe confirming the relevance and the role of the North-South Centre as the privileged instrument designed to promote CoE action and values beyond Europe, through education, youth co-operation and intercultural dialogue.

The process leading to the adoption of the new resolution began in 2009 with the preparation of a report and a recommendation by the Parliamentary Assembly on “The future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity”. The report prepared by Kimmo Sasi (Finland) led to the adoption on 20 November 2009 of Recommendation 1893 (2009) by the Standing Committee of the Assembly. This recommendation highlighted on the recent developments at the NSC and proposed the adoption of a new statutory resolution updating its mission and strengthening the role of its stakeholders at institutional level.

At their meeting on 24 February 2010, the Ministers' Deputies invited the Secretary General to give his opinion on the draft resolution proposed by the PACE, in light of the comprehensive reform process of the Council of Europe that he initiated recently. They also decided to transmit the recommendation to the Executive Council of the North-South Centre, to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and to the Conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe for opinion by 31 May, as well as to the European Commission and the European Parliament for information and possible comments by 30 June 2010. The Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C) was invited to prepare a draft reply for adoption at one of their forthcoming meetings, in light of the opinions and possible comments received.

As a follow-up, the **Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs** adopted its opinion during its plenary session in Strasbourg on 28 April. The draft opinion, prepared by Ms Sophie Dimitroulias (Greece, Association des femmes de l’Europe méridionale – AFEM) was first examined by the Transversal Group on Europe and Global Challenges during its meeting on 26 April. A historical perspective to the Recommendation was provided on this occasion by Mr Uwe Holtz, former rapporteur of PACE at the time of the creation of the NSC.

The **Executive Council** of the North-South Centre adopted its opinion during its 43rd meeting on 17 May in Lisbon. The **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities** of the Council of Europe adopted its opinion at its Standing Committee meeting in Strasbourg on 18 June 2010. Written comments were received from the Presidents of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions of the European Union in letters dated 21 May, 7 July and 17 September respectively.

On the basis of Recommendation 1893 (2009) and of the opinions and comments received, and in the light of the ongoing reform of the Council of Europe as a whole, the Secretary General prepared his proposal for a new statutory Resolution of the North-South Centre, to be used as a working basis for the Committee of Ministers. During the first round of discussions held by the Committee of Representatives of Members and

the Executive Council during the autumn, diverging positions were expressed between those in favour of maintaining the present structure of the Centre and those advocating a change in the balance of powers among stakeholders, while maintaining its “quadrilogue” character. On the side of the member States, a document on a possible revision of the Statutory resolution on the North-south Centre, was distributed at the request of the Greek delegation on 26 October 2010. With regard to the “quadrilogue” partners, letters of support for the “quadrilogue” structure were received from the European Youth Forum, CONCORD, and the European Parliament, dated 16, 17 and 25 November 2010 respectively.

The Secretary General revised his proposal taking into account these discussions and correspondence and informal consultation meetings were held with the member States on 7 and 21 March 2011 respectively. A consensus was reached on the text during these meetings and it has been transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for examination at the GR-C meeting of 21 April and its subsequent adoption foreseen no later than the ministerial meeting in Istanbul on 11 May.

The Centre also undertook a number of other initiatives in the context of its 20th Anniversary. This included the **short film competition “Action for Women”**, launched by the Chair of the Executive Council in September 2009, with the aim of combatting violence against women. Young directors coming from 11 European countries were invited to propose a short film on the fight against violence towards women and to put them online on YouTube Action for women. A Jury, chaired by the Belgian Director, Jaco Van Dormael, selected 10 finalists and the YouTube public voted to select the three winning short films. The winning film “Il mio primo schiaffo” was screened at the 67th Venice International Film Festival on 3 September 2010. The Chair of the Executive Council used this opportunity, as in 2009, to promote the Council of Europe’s Campaign against domestic violence by organising a round table on this theme in the context of the 2010 Venice Festival. The round table was attended by the Italian Minister for Youth and the Minister for Equality.

Another initiative was the **“20 Bridge Builders in the History of Humanity”**, aimed at honouring personalities in the history of humanity who made a remarkable contribution to building bridges between cultures and civilisations and played a pionnier role in what is today called “intercultural dialogue”. Following the call for candidatures launched in September 2009, the NSC received 101 proposals sent by its member States, the global network of historians, the participants in the University on Youth and Development and the general public. The Bureau of the Executive Council examined the proposals at its meeting on 29 January 2010 and adopted the final list of 20 Bridge Builders which includes names such as Leonardo da Vinci, Eleanor Roosevelt, Gandhi and Ibn Rushd (also known as Averroes). The Bureau also decided to launch an appeal to the general public when visiting the planned exhibition to identify a 21st bridge builder based on a list of 10 personalities suggested by the NSC or on a personal choice.

The exhibition was launched in Lisbon on 18 May during the 20th Anniversary Official Ceremony and was open to the public until 31 May. Following this, it was shown in Strasbourg during the 3rd Part-Session of the Parliamentary Assembly (21-25 June) and also during the 5th Summer University for Democracy (28 June – 2 July). It was also shown during the 2010 Lisbon Forum event. The possibility of showing it at other activities and venues remains open.

Another initiative organised in the context of its 20th Anniversary was a **concert** “Intercultural Homage to Georges Brassens” which took place on 20 March in Lisbon. The Concert, organised by the NSC with the support of the Council of Europe Staff Amicale and the French Cultural Centre, gathered 260 people and was the closing event for the “Semaine de la Francophonie”. The Centre also used the **Lisbon Half-Marathon** on 21 March and the “Run for opportunities” race on 30 May as awareness-raising opportunities by having a group of runners wearing the slogan “Run 4 Human Rights”.

The highlight of the 20th Anniversary was the **Official Ceremony** which took place on 17-18 May, organised around three key events: the 43rd meeting of the Executive Council (17 May) (see page 5), a Round Table (18 May) (see below) and the 2009 North-South Prize Ceremony (18 May) (see page 28).

The theme of the **Round Table** was “The 21st Century – a Century of Global Interdependence and Solidarity” and featured a keynote speech from the President of Iceland. The two working sessions, dedicated to "Towards a new model of development?" and "Democratic governance of cultural diversity", highlighted the challenges of this new century and the need for visionary co-operation and will provide a rich source of material for the North-South Centre’s future work. Around 80 participants were present, including at high level, in addition to the President of Iceland, the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the former President of the Parliamentary Assembly, the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal, the State Secretary for European Affairs of Portugal, the Minister for integration and gender equality of Sweden and a significant number of previous North-South prize winners. The Round Table was organised in collaboration with the Municipality of Lisbon.

On 7 July, the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre was marked at a reception hosted by the Permanent Representative of Italy, Ambassador Sergio Busetto, which preceded the screening of the film “Un’anima divisa in due”.

The final event marking the 20th Anniversary was the reception which was offered by the Chair of the Committee of Representatives of the member States, Permanent Representative of Greece to the Council of Europe, Ambassador Athanassios Dendoulis on 7 October in Strasbourg.

6 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

According to the budget approved by the Executive Council in November 2009, the total of receipts in 2010 amounted to €1 563 300². During the year, with the accession of Cape Verde and Azerbaijan to the North-South Centre and the confirmation of financial support from different sources, the budget increased to €1 696 000, representing an increase of 7% in relation to 2009.

Spain, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein showed their support to the NSC by contributing €30 000, €30 000 and €27 087 respectively to its programme of activities. In addition, the NSC expected to receive €75 000 under the co-operation agreement signed between the Council of Europe and the Al Jaber Foundation that unfortunately did not materialise.

Concerning the projects run with the financial support of the European Commission, the outcome is quite positive. The Africa-Europe dimension of the CoE –EU partnership in the field of youth, managed by the Centre, continued in 2010 with the same € 200 000 envelope than in 2009. As regards the 2009-2011 Joint Management Agreement, that concluded the second year of implementation, the very positive feedback received from the independent monitoring report in April as well as the feedback from the European Commission after submission of the second interim report opens good prospects for the renewal of this cooperation beyond 2011.

Furthermore, as a result of the development of partnerships with other organisations, the Centre was able to mobilise additional resources through “in kind” contributions or co-organised activities, which can be estimated at €181 967.

² This figure included an estimate of €20 000 of annual bank interests in 2010. Given the present financial context, the real amount was far less (€2 000).

On the expenditure side, 96% of the total funds available for programme expenditure in the BL were spent as well as 89% of the funds available for the second year of the Joint Management Agreement, and 100% of the funds allocated in the special account for activities under the Euro-African dimension of the COE/EU Youth Partnership.

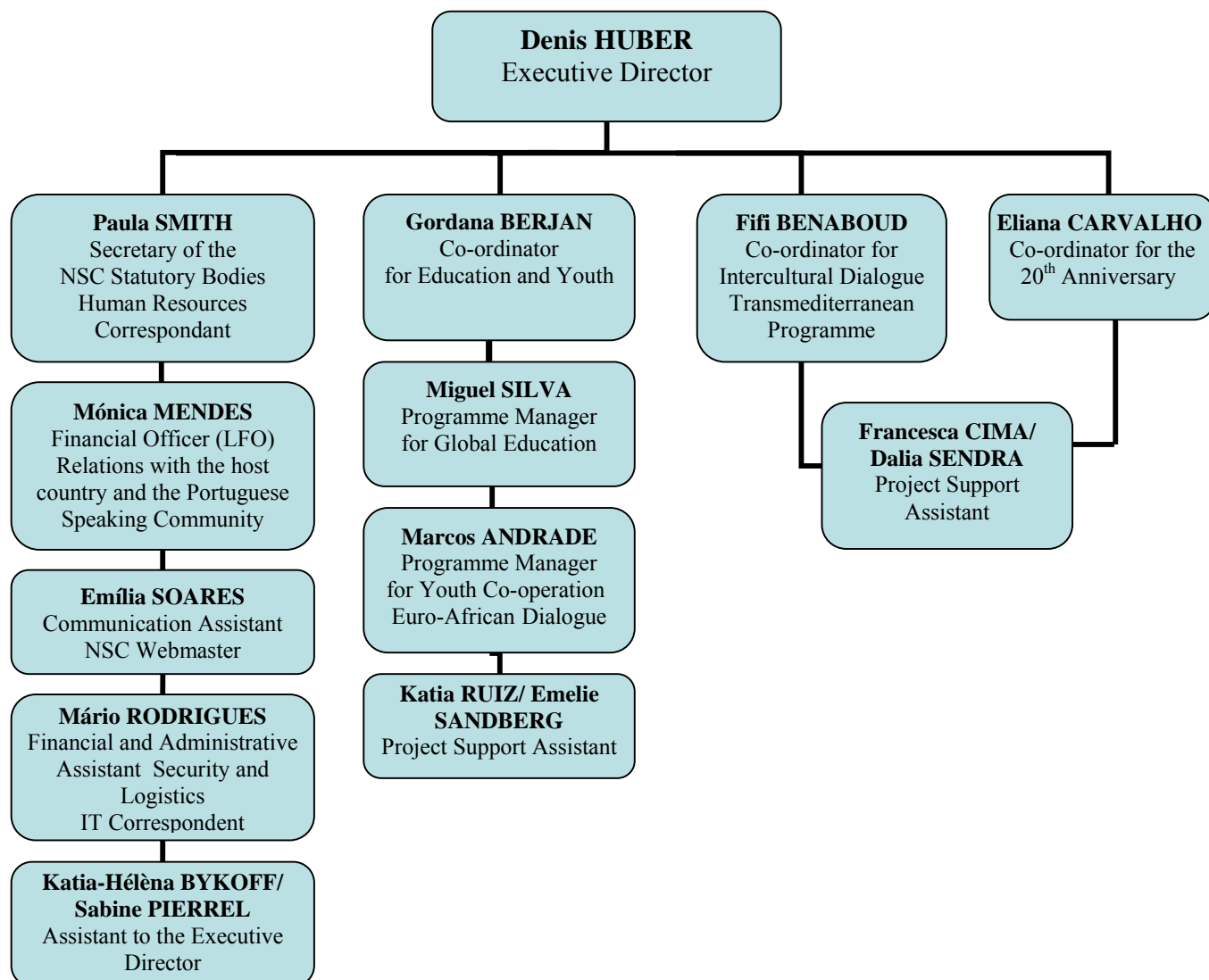
The funds available on the BL Budget (in the beginning of the year and those that resulted from the accession of new members States) as well as those arising from external funding, were steadily used in line with the flow of activities except for the costs related to the intercultural dialogue programme. The absence of the corresponding coordinator during the whole year entailed the postponement of certain activities and also explains a slight decrease in the volume of expenditure on the general running of the secretariat (e.g. communications, office supplies, correspondence, production of documents).

COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN 2010

Representatives of the member States:	1	Cyprus
	2	Finland
	3	Germany*
	4	The Netherlands
	5	San Marino
	6	Serbia
	7	Spain*
	8	Switzerland
Parliamentarians:		
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe⁽¹⁾	9	Mr Kimmo Sasi*
	10	Ms Maria Manuela de Melo
European Parliament⁽²⁾	11	Mr Miguel Angel Martínez
	12	Ms Birgit Schnieber-Jastram
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe⁽³⁾	13	Mr Jean-Claude Frecon*
	14	Mr Ian Micallef
	15	Mrs Ludmila Sfirloaga*
	16	
Civil society Representatives:		
Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe	17	Mr Jean-Marie Heydt*
	18	Mr Michel Julien
European Youth Forum	19	Mr Christoffer Grønstad
Global Education Network Europe (GENE)	20	Mr Helmuth Hartmeyer
European NGO confederation for relief and development (CONCORD)	21	Ms Rilli Lappalainen
European Institute of Cultural Routes	22	Ms Erna Hennicot-Schoepges
Secretary General of the Council of Europe or his/her representative:	23	Mrs Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni
European Commission⁽⁴⁾:	24	Mrs Luisella Pavan-Woolfe*
Representatives from the South:		
Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union	25	Mr Habib Ben Yahia
	26	
Seat allocated on an exceptional basis⁽⁵⁾	27	Italy*
* Bureau member		
(1) Substitute members:		
Mr Lluís Maria de Puig and Ms Maryvonne Blondin		
(2) Substitute members:		
Mr Charles Goerens and Ms Gabriele Zimmer		
(3) Substitute members:		
Mr Michel Guegan and Mrs Esther Maurer		
(4) Substitute member: Mr Jérôme Legrand		

⁽⁵⁾ At its 41st meeting of 17 March 2009, the Executive Council allocated, on an exceptional basis, a seat to Italy until the end of the present Executive Council mandate.

ORGANIGRAMME OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE SECRETARIAT IN 2010



COMPOSITION OF THE NSC THINK-TANK

Dr. Eberhard KOELSCH, Vice-Chair of the North-South Centre Executive Council, Chair of the Think-Tank

Dr. Koelsch was Permanent Representative of Germany to the Council of Europe from 2006 until 2009. He entered into the German Foreign Service in 1972, and worked successively for the European Integration Department in Bonn, in the German Permanent Mission to the United Nations and in the Middle East Department of the German Foreign Office in Bonn. He held then the positions of Dep. Head of Mission of the German Embassy for Port-of-Spain, Head of Private Office of the “Co-ordinator for Franco-German Co-operation”, Counsellor in the German Embassy of London and Dep. Director of the “U.S. Affairs Office”. Between 1990 and 1993 he was German Dep. Consul General in New York and then Director Head of Unit “Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union” (1993 – 1998) in the German Foreign Office in Bonn where, in 1999, he became Deputy Political Director. Between 1999 and 2003 he was Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) at the German Embassy in Washington D.C. and then, and until 2006, German Ambassador to the United Mexican States, Mexico City. He is now a lecturer at Bonn University in Germany and a regular speaker at programmes of various political foundations and other institutions of adult education.

Mr Victor ANGELO, former Special Representative for MINURCAT, former United Nations Deputy Secretary General

Mr Angelo is currently the Special Representative for the United Nations Mission in Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). Before 2008, Mr Angelo was the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for Sierra Leone. United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator, as well as UNDP Resident Representative in Zimbabwe, from 2000 to 2004, he also held the positions of UNDP Special Envoy for East Timor and Asia, Deputy Regional Director for Africa at UNDP in New York, Resident Coordinator/Resident Representative in Tanzania and the Gambia, and Deputy Resident Representative in the Central African Republic. He also served as United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Adviser in Sao Tome and Principe.

Ms Mbarka BOUAIDA, Member of Parliament, Chair of the Committee of Foreign Affairs, National Defence and Religious Affairs (Morocco)

Ms Bouaida is a member of the National Council of the National Rally for Independents (RNI), which forms a part of the current Moroccan governmental coalition. In this context, Ms Bouaida is the Chair of the Committee of Foreign Affairs and the National Defence and Religious Affairs in the Moroccan House of Representatives. She is also a Member of the Economic Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and an elected local Councillor of the Municipality of Anfa (Casablanca). She dedicates her community life to the Moroccan Association for Education and Development (Casablanca), acting as its Secretary General and to the MOUSTAQBAL Association for Education (Guelmim).

Mrs Alicia CABEZUDO, Professor

Mrs Cabezudo is professor at the School of Education / University of Rosario, Argentina and at the UNESCO CHAIR on Culture of Peace and Human Rights / University of Buenos Aires. Her work is rooted in the contemporary History of Latin America researching and teaching in the field of Education for Democracy, Culture of Peace and Human Rights. She is Annual Visiting Professor at the Master in Peace Education/ University of Peace / Costa Rica and at the MA on Development, Conflict and Peace, in the University Jaume I / Castellon / Spain. She teaches Culture of Peace Summer Courses to arab attendants at the Institute of Peace Studies in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Egypt). Present Consultor and former Organizer Director of the Latin American Office of International Educating Cities (Barcelona Town Hall)

at the Municipality of Rosario, Argentina (1997-2006). She is Visiting Professor in many universities and was recently pointed as Faculty of a new program on Peace Education and Democracy in Jeju University, South Korea. Mrs Cabezudo is Consultor for the Anna Lindh Foundation and the author of various publications and research articles.

Mr Murat DAOUDOV, Director of EU and International Relations at the Union of Municipalities of Marmara (Turkey)

Mr Daoudov is a Belgian national, originally from the Russian Federation (Chechen Republic). As Director of EU & International Relations at the Union of Municipalities of Marmara, he is actively involved in decentralised co-operation and project development in the Balkans, the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. He is also founding member of the Turkish Association of Local Government Managers - YÖNDER. In Belgium, he worked for the Centre for Equal Opportunities/Observatory for Migrations from 2003 to 2006. In 2006, he was co-awarded the “Euro-Med Journalism Prize for Cultural Diversity 2006”. He is the author of various opinions pieces and research articles.

Mr. Mir Asghar HUSAIN, Adviser of Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber, Founder of the MBI Al Jaber Foundation

As a UNESCO international civil servant, Mr. Husain worked as an Education Planning Specialist in Africa, Asia, and some Arab countries. Later on he went on to become Director of Education Planning, Policies and Strategies at UNESCO, in Paris. Dr Husain is now adviser for the MBI Foundation and, among others, UNESCO (Euro-Arab Dialogue), the Commonwealth Foundation, the French National Commission, the Foundation for Enterprise in Africa, the International Institute of Education Planning, the Innovation of Madrassahs in India, and the Ministries of Education of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman. He is also the author of several publications and research articles.

Mr Yohannes MEZGEBE, Vice-President of the Pan African Youth Union

In 2001, Yohannes Mezgebe founded the Youth Corps, a non-profit organization working with and among young people from academic institutions and the wider community. He is also the Co-Founder of the African Youth Forum for Peace (AYFP), a confederation of African Youth Peace Makers who are working together, sharing experiences and sensitising African leaders to the needs of African youths, particularly in areas of conflict. Recently he contributed to the work of the Africa Commission 2008-2009 on “realising the Potential of Africa’s Youth”.

Mrs Felisa TIBBITTS, Executive Director of HREA

Felisa Tibbitts is co-founder and director of the Human Rights Education Associates (HREA), an international non-governmental organisation dedicated to education and learning about human rights. She supported national curricular reform efforts in Romania, Albania, Estonia, Ukraine, Croatia, Morocco and China, and has been involved in teacher training in 20 countries. Mrs Tibbitts has also published extensively on the topic of human rights education. She serves as a consultative expert for several organizations including the Council of Europe, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Amnesty International and the Organization of American States (OAS). In addition to her responsibilities with HREA, Mrs Tibbitts is Adjunct Faculty at the United Nations University for Peace and the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

HIGH LEVEL MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

Message de S.E le Président de la République du Portugal Prof. Dr. Aníbal Cavaco Silva

C'est avec la plus grande satisfaction que je félicite le Centre Nord-Sud pour la commémoration de son 20^e anniversaire. J'ai eu le grand plaisir, en tant que Premier Ministre, de formaliser, auprès du Conseil de l'Europe, la proposition de créer le Centre européen pour l'interdépendance et la solidarité mondiales, projet qui s'est concrétisé en 1989 et qui, un an plus tard, venait à siéger à Lisbonne.

J'aimerais mettre en exergue la contribution particulièrement importante du Centre Nord-Sud, au cours des deux dernières décennies, à une meilleure prise de conscience des défis et des opportunités auxquels nous confronte l'interdépendance mondiale et à la création d'un lien plus étroit et solidaire entre le Nord et le Sud. Dans un monde en constante transformation, le Centre Nord-Sud a réussi à s'adapter à la poursuite de nouveaux objectifs, sans oublier les préoccupations qui ont conduit son action dès le début, telles que la valorisation et la défense des droits de l'homme, l'éradication de la pauvreté, la promotion de la démocratie pluraliste, de la dignité humaine et de l'égalité des chances.

C'est dans ce contexte que s'inscrit une initiative qui revêt une visibilité et un prestige certains, le Prix Nord-Sud remis chaque année, depuis 1995, à deux personnalités de chacun des hémisphères qui se sont distinguées par leur contribution exceptionnelle à la promotion des valeurs poursuivies par le Centre.

La mission du Centre Nord-Sud est aujourd'hui d'une actualité renouvelée. Les inégalités qui continuent d'exister, tant dans le domaine des libertés fondamentales que sur les niveaux de développement socio-économique des différentes régions, exigent un sens de responsabilité et de solidarité accru en faveur des populations les plus affectées et défavorisées.

Statement by Mr Jorge Sampaio, High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilizations

A few days ago we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall. Today the North South Center is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. This is by no means a coincidence, but the result of a deliberate and timely decision for this Council of Europe's institution which has based its work on breaking down walls and barriers, and bridging divides through dialogue, partnership and solidarity, with the aim of contributing to the development of knowledge, mutual understanding and ties between European, Southern Mediterranean and African societies. Today its mandate is more important than ever, at a time characterized by various tensions and severe difficulty in accepting the other's differences and sharing a plural living space that a shrinking world has made inevitable.

In the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2008 between the Alliance of Civilizations and the Council of Europe, I attach a particular importance to the collaboration with the Lisbon-based North-South Centre, major Council of Europe's tool for dialogue with neighboring regions and relevant space for cooperation among governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities, cities and civil society organisations.

The North-South Centre is commemorating its 20th Anniversary on the same day the world is celebrating the International Day for Tolerance. This coincidence is a clear signal that there is an urgent need to go ahead with dialogue and cooperation worldwide.

Declaration of Mr. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

Today we are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. This is a matter of particular satisfaction for me as I have been following the work of the Centre since its creation : first as Secretary of State for Co-operation of Portugal at the time of its installation in Lisbon, then as Prime Minister of Portugal and finally as President of the European Commission.

I would like to underline the important work of this Council of Europe's structure in promoting dialogue between Europe and its neighbouring countries at the level of education, youth and intercultural dialogue. The European Commission has given support to its projects aiming at developing global education in the new member States of the European Union as well as euro-african youth cooperation. The "Lisbon Forum", chaired by Jorge Sampaio, High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilizations, represents one of the Centre's most important instruments for stimulating exchanges and dialogue between different continents in the field of human rights.

The topic of this year's Forum "Creating a culture of human rights through education" is of particular importance for the European Commission: human rights can never be taken for granted. All governments, institutions, associations and citizens are concerned and need to be reminded of the necessity to promote and protect human rights. We cannot ensure universal respect for human rights without international co-operation. That is why the "quadrilogue" structure of the North-South Centre is so important, and this is why its role as a "bridge builder" between different actors, geographical spaces and cultures deserves our support."

**Déclaration conjointe de la Présidente du Centre Nord-Sud, Mme Déborah Bergamini,
et du Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe, M. Thorbjørn Jagland**

Le Centre Nord-Sud du Conseil de l'Europe a été créé il y a 20 ans avec pour objectif de sensibiliser l'opinion publique aux défis globaux, et de favoriser le dialogue et la coopération au niveau international. Cette tâche est aujourd'hui plus importante que jamais dans la lutte contre les incompréhensions, la méfiance – voire le rejet - de l'autre, l'intolérance et l'extrémisme.

Le Centre Nord-Sud rassemble les efforts de gouvernements, parlementaires, pouvoirs locaux et régionaux et société civile dans la promotion des valeurs universelles défendues par le Conseil de l'Europe. Il renforce, année après année, son rôle de facilitateur du dialogue et de la coopération entre l'Europe et ses régions voisines, à travers l'éducation, la jeunesse et le dialogue interculturel. Ce faisant, il apporte une valeur ajoutée indiscutable à la contribution du Conseil de l'Europe aux processus politiques majeurs en cours, tant au niveau mondial (l'Alliance des Civilisations des Nations Unies) que régional (stratégie conjointe UE-Afrique, Union pour la Méditerranée).

Le Conseil de l'Europe et son Centre Nord-Sud travaillent tous les jours à la construction d'un espace méditerranéen et euroafricain pluraliste, porteur d'un avenir de dialogue, de coopération et de paix.

**Déclaration conjointe sur le Conseil de l'Europe et le « quadrilogue », dans le contexte du 20^e
anniversaire du Centre Nord-Sud
par Samuel Žbogar, Président du Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe, Lluís Maria de Puig,**

Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe, Ian Micallef, Président a.i du Congrès des Pouvoirs Locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe et Jean-Marie Heydt, Président de la Conférence des OING du Conseil de l'Europe

La création du Conseil de l'Europe, en 1949, a introduit une innovation majeure dans la sphère des relations internationales, puisque pour la première fois une Assemblée parlementaire, représentant les peuples, siégeait aux côtés du Comité des Ministres, émanation des gouvernements, pour conduire l'action de la nouvelle organisation.

Cette innovation répondait à la volonté des dirigeants politiques de l'époque de faire en sorte que la construction européenne, dès son origine, puisse compter non seulement sur l'appui mais aussi sur la contribution des citoyens. Elle a été complétée très rapidement par deux autres avancées : l'implication de la société civile dans les travaux du Conseil de l'Europe, à travers le statut consultatif créé en 1952 (aujourd'hui près de 400 OING dotées d'un statut participatif sont regroupées au sein de la Conférence des OING du Conseil de l'Europe) et celle des autorités locales et régionales, à travers la Conférence des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux créée en 1957 (dont le rôle s'est progressivement renforcé jusqu'à donner naissance, en 1994, à l'actuel Congrès des Pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe).

L'action conjuguée de ces différents piliers est communément appelée le « quadrilogue ». Elle inspire de nombreux secteurs d'activités du Conseil de l'Europe, et constitue la base sur laquelle fonctionne le Forum pour l'avenir de la démocratie ou la Stratégie pour l'innovation et la bonne gouvernance au niveau local. Elle est au coeur du processus de décision du Centre Nord-Sud, où les quatre composantes (gouvernements, parlementaires, autorités locales et régionales, société civile) siègent sur un pied d'égalité dans le Conseil exécutif.

En ce jour, nous célébrons le 20e Anniversaire de la création du Centre Nord- Sud, en même temps que la journée internationale de la tolérance. Nous souhaitons saisir cette occasion pour réaffirmer l'importance que nous attachons au concept de « quadrilogue », et notre engagement pour l'action conjointe entre les gouvernements, les parlementaires, les autorités locales et régionales et la société civile, au service des idéaux et des valeurs promus par le Conseil de l'Europe.

**Extrait du Message du Pape Benoît XVI
Rencontre avec le monde de la culture, 12 mai 2010, Lisbonne**

L'Église – écrivait le Pape Paul VI – doit entrer en dialogue avec le monde dans lequel elle vit. L'Église se fait parole ; l'Église se fait message ; l'Église se fait dialogue » (Ecclesiam suam, n.67). En effet, le dialogue sans ambiguïté et respectueux des parties impliquées est aujourd'hui une priorité dans le monde, priorité à laquelle l'Église n'entend pas se soustraire. Elle en donne un témoignage clair par la présence du Saint-Siège dans les divers organismes internationaux, comme par exemple, dans le Centre Nord-Sud du Conseil de l'Europe, fondé il y a 20 ans ici à Lisbonne, qui a comme pierre angulaire le dialogue interculturel dans le but de promouvoir la coopération entre l'Europe, le sud de la Méditerranée et l'Afrique et de construire une citoyenneté mondiale fondée sur les droits humains et la responsabilité des citoyens, indépendamment de leur origine ethnique et de leur appartenance politique, dans le respect des croyances religieuses. Étant donné la diversité culturelle, il faut faire en sorte que les personnes, non seulement acceptent l'existence de la culture de l'autre, mais aspirent aussi à s'en enrichir et à lui offrir ce que l'on possède de bien, de vrai et de beau.

**Message du Président de la République du Portugal
M. Aníbal Cavaco Silva**

Le 20e anniversaire du Centre Nord-Sud – appellation par laquelle le Centre européen pour l'interdépendance et la solidarité mondiales s'est fait connaître – que nous célébrons cette année, représente, pour tous ses Etats membres et pour les différents partenaires avec lesquels il a coopéré au long de ces deux décennies, un motif de réjouissance particulièrement justifiée.

Le Portugal s'enorgueillit d'accueillir le siège du Centre Nord-Sud, à Lisbonne, manifestation de l'attachement de notre pays aux idéaux du Conseil de l'Europe tout comme de la tradition universaliste et d'ouverture au dialogue qui caractérise notre relation avec d'autres peuples et d'autres cultures.

Le Centre Nord-Sud a été créé en 1989 dans le suivi d'une proposition que j'ai eu l'honneur, en tant que Premier Ministre, de faire au Conseil de l'Europe, et dont l'existence à la nécessité qui émergeait dans un ensemble de pays européens d'assurer une meilleure coordination des efforts en faveur des différents aspects liés à l'interdépendance et à la solidarité mondiales, dans une perspective de dialogue entre le Nord et le Sud. L'évolution de la réalité internationale, et notamment les effets du développement de la mondialisation, viennent prouver très clairement l'opportunité et la pertinence de ce pari.

Depuis sa fondation, le Centre Nord-Sud a développé une relation étroite avec le Conseil de l'Europe, tirant parti de son expérience de consolidation d'une Europe de paix et de solidarité, tout en contribuant à l'approfondissement de la coopération européenne face aux multiples défis posés par l'interdépendance mondiale.

L'affirmation de l'universalité des droits et des libertés fondamentaux et la promotion de la Paix, de la Démocratie et de l'Etat de Droit, questions urgentes dans le monde d'aujourd'hui, sont présentes de façon transversale dans les activités développées par le Centre Nord-Sud, lui conférant un rôle déterminant dans la projection de ces valeurs au delà de l'espace européen.

Au cours de ces deux dernières décennies, le monde a subi de profondes mutations. Notre époque est confrontée à des questions dont le degré de complexité et la dimension mondiale demandent une capacité de mobilisation accrue de la part de la communauté internationale.

L'immigration internationale, les changements climatiques ou la sécurité alimentaire sont des thématiques qui touchent directement ou indirectement toutes les régions et qui se révèlent décisives pour la construction d'un monde de paix, de stabilité et de progrès économiques et sociaux auquel nous aspirons tous. La même chose s'applique à la pauvreté, à la faim, à l'accès aux soins de santé et à l'éducation ou à la protection de la dignité de la personne humaine. Ce sont des questions qui sont présentes dans le dialogue Nord- Sud et dont le traitement exige une coopération entre les peuples et les nations.

Le Centre a su s'adapter aux évolutions qui ont eu lieu au niveau international, en intégrant des changements lui permettant, avec une nouvelle vitalité, de mobiliser ses partenaires étatiques ainsi que les pouvoirs régionaux et locaux et les organisations de la société civile.

Il est important de rappeler que les activités du Centre Nord-Sud ont démarré en 1989 avec seulement 10 Etats membres. Le 1er mars 2010, comme indication du progrès réalisé depuis cette date, le Cap Vert est devenu son 22e Etat membre, 2e Etat non européen et le 1er originaire de la région sub-saharienne.

La croissance du nombre des Etats membres du Centre Nord-Sud représente un signal clair de sa vitalité et de la validité de sa mission actuelle et de l'intérêt d'un nombre croissant de partenaires qui, au Nord et au Sud, cherchent à s'associer à ses activités.

J'ai la ferme conviction – et la crise mondiale que nous traversons la rend encore plus évidente – que la mission du Centre Nord-Sud est aussi pertinente, actuelle et nécessaire aujourd'hui qu'elle l'était il y a 20 ans.

La commémoration du 20e anniversaire du Centre Nord-Sud représente ainsi une opportunité de regarder vers le futur, en renouvelant notre compromis envers les objectifs et les valeurs fondamentaux qui guident son action.

C'est aussi une occasion privilégiée de rendre hommage à tous ceux qui, au long de ces 20 ans, ont donné le meilleur d'eux-mêmes au nom de ces principes et valeurs.

Message du Président de l'Assemblée de la République du Portugal
M. Jaime Gama

Le Centre Nord-Sud du Conseil de l'Europe fête cette année son 20^e anniversaire. Compte tenu de l'importance des objectifs poursuivis, de la valeur des activités développées et de sa contribution particulière pour le rapprochement entre le Nord et le Sud, grâce à la promotion de politiques de solidarité et d'une meilleure compréhension mutuelle, il mérite notre reconnaissance et nos plus sincères félicitations.

L'Assemblée de la République du Portugal est fière d'avoir participé étroitement au processus de création du Centre Nord-Sud, à qui elle a, depuis lors, apporté un soutien constant. Depuis 1995, elle se charge chaque année de la coorganisation et de l'accueil de la cérémonie de remise du Prix Nord-Sud, une initiative qui jouit d'une visibilité et d'un impact notables. C'est avec un dévouement

renouvelé et avec satisfaction que le 18 mai prochain l'Assemblée de la République recevra à nouveau la cérémonie de remise du Prix 2009.

Le 20^e anniversaire du Centre Nord-Sud est une occasion de célébrer, mais aussi de tirer un bilan et de réfléchir sur la manière de poursuivre les objectifs et de relever plus efficacement les défis prioritaires, présents et futurs. Tout en maintenant le dynamisme caractéristique de sa jeunesse, le Centre est suffisamment mature pour répondre à ces attentes avec propriété, habileté critique et un solide sens de la responsabilité.

Dans ce contexte, c'est avec plaisir que j'évoque la récente adhésion du Cap-Vert au Centre Nord-Sud. Il s'agit là d'un événement empreint de signification, surtout juste avant la célébration du 20^e anniversaire du Centre, parce qu'il représente la première adhésion d'un pays d'Afrique subsaharienne, mais aussi parce que la capacité du Centre d'attirer de nouveaux membres vient confirmer sa vitalité et son dynamisme, ainsi que l'actualité de ses objectifs.

Aujourd'hui, vingt ans plus tard, les principes et les valeurs du Conseil de l'Europe – les droits de l'homme, la démocratie et la cohésion sociale – n'ont rien perdu de leur validité. De même, aujourd'hui comme il y a vingt ans, l'approche vocationnelle du Centre basée sur l'interdépendance globale et la solidarité se justifie pleinement. Des principes et des objectifs stables exigent une mise en œuvre flexible et la capacité de s'adapter aux exigences d'un contexte international et régional en perpétuel changement. Je félicite le Centre Nord-Sud pour ses réussites au long de deux décennies et je suis convaincu de son succès pour les années à venir.

Extrait de l'intervention de M. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, Président de l'Islande à la Table Ronde commémorative du 20e anniversaire du Centre Nord-Sud "Le XXIe siècle, siècle de l'interdépendance et de la solidarité Nord-Sud"

The (Lisbon 1984) Conference ("North-South: Europe's Role") was, I believe, the largest gathering of European Parliamentarians that had been assembled up to then in order to discuss economic and social development within the North-South context (...) Today I (...) thank the leaders of Portugal for embracing our vision in a determined way, establishing in due course the North-South Centre to institutionalise the continuation of our joint effort. But I also refer to these endeavours of more than a quarter of a century ago in order to remind us of the fundamental changes which have taken place, both in the North and in the South; changes which must in the decades to come profoundly affect our efforts and our vision.

OPINIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE PROPOSED NEW STATUTORY RESOLUTION

1. Opinion of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre

At its 43rd meeting in Lisbon on 17 May 2010, the Executive Council, with its composition enlarged to all member states of the North-South Centre, agreed on the following opinion on Recommendation 1893 (2009) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: “The future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity”:

1.1 The Executive Council is grateful to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for the strong and unswerving support it has given the Centre since it was first created and welcomes the adoption, on 20 November 2009, of Recommendation 1893 (2009): “The future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity”.

In this respect, it expresses its gratitude to Mr Kimmo Sasi (Finland), Rapporteur of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, and Ms Manuela de Melo (Portugal), Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education.

1.2 The Executive Council wishes to also thank the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe for its positive opinion adopted on 28 April 2010 (Rapporteur: Mrs Sophie Dimitroulias, Greece), as well as (in anticipation) to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Claude Frécon, France) for its opinion to be adopted on 18 June 2010, and to the European Commission and the European Parliament for their expected comments on Recommendation 1893 (2009).

It looks forward to the position of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, who should, on the basis of the proposal set out in the Appendix to Recommendation 1893 (2009) and the opinions expressed by the Centre’s other stakeholders, and in the light of the reform process of the Council of Europe as a whole, provide the Committee of Ministers with a working basis for the adoption of a new statutory resolution by the end of 2010.

1.3 The Executive Council firmly endorses the proposal that a new statutory resolution be adopted in 2010 – in the context of the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre – thereby reaffirming the relevance of the Centre and enabling its mandates, structures and objectives to be adapted to a political situation and an international environment which have changed significantly since the Centre was first founded.

It notes with interest that Recommendation 1893 (2009) proposes that the Committee of Ministers consider changing the current status of the North-South Centre from an enlarged partial agreement to an enlarged agreement. Although it agrees with the political arguments in support of such a change, the Executive Council notes that the circumstances are not favourable for such a radical enlargement of the composition of the North- South Centre. It therefore proposes that, between the two options proposed by the PACE, article 3.1 on the new status of the North-South Centre should be formulated as follows: “All member states of the Council of Europe are entitled to be members of the Centre.”

The Executive Council hopes that the process leading to the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of a new statutory resolution for the North-South Centre will convince an increasing number of Council of Europe member states to join the Centre.

1.4 The new draft statutory resolution proposes that the Centre's current mandate be brought into line with the Council of Europe's political and strategic priorities. With this in mind, recommendation 1893 (2009) proposes that the following paragraph be added to the description of the role of the North-South Centre: "to provide a framework for dialogue and co-operation between the Council of Europe and neighbouring non-European countries or regions, in particular through education, youth co-operation and intercultural dialogue".

The new strategy launched by the North-South Centre in 2008 and the results obtained since then have strengthened the role of the Centre as an interface between the Council of Europe and neighbouring countries and other continents. The concrete outcome has been the accession of two non-European countries, Morocco (July 2009) and Cape Verde (March 2010).

The Executive Council therefore proposes that the following phrase be added to the aforementioned paragraph "and offer a platform for structured co-operation with the Council of Europe, based on the different dimensions of the "quadrilogue", for non-European countries which may be interested".

1.5 The Executive Council underlines the importance of maintaining the structure and functioning of the North-South Centre "quadrilogue", which is not only an original feature of the Centre but lends it credibility in a field of action in which the participation of non-state actors is very important. In this connection, it recalls that, when setting-up the North-South Centre at its 85th Ministerial Session (16 November 1989), the Committee of Ministers placed particular emphasis on the Centre's quadrilogue structure and that its 20 years' experience has inspired similar Council of Europe initiatives, such as the Forum for the Future of Democracy.

1.6 The Executive Council is of the opinion that the new resolution should highlight the increasingly important role that the North-South Centre plays in the Council of Europe's external policy. In this context, the involvement of the European Union in the operation and activities of the North-South Centre is vital. It should, in so far as is possible, be further strengthened, particularly through the inclusion of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union among the Centre's stakeholders on the Executive Council (on the same basis as the European Commission and the European Parliament).

The Executive Council agrees with the PACE that the 20th Anniversary should also be the occasion for raising once again the question of the accession of the European Union, as such, to the North-South Centre, which was foreseen when the Centre was created, but has not yet happened.

1.7 In parallel with the adoption of the new statutory resolution, the Executive Council will work on the preparation of internal rules of procedure for its own operation, in accordance with the decision taken at its 41st meeting (17 March 2009).

1.8 Lastly, the Executive Council would like to propose the following additional amendments to the proposed statute contained in the Appendix of PACE Recommendation 1893 (2009) (see appendix below).

2. Opinion of the Congress of Local and Regional authorities of the Council of Europe³

2.1 The Congress underlines that it has been involved in the work of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (“the Centre”) since it was set up in Lisbon in 1990 and that it signed a reinforced co-operation agreement with the Centre on 2 December 2008 in order to define common goals more effectively and expand mutual co-operation networks.

2.2 The Congress, which already co-operates with local and regional authorities in the Maghreb and the Middle East, welcomes the accession to the Centre by the first non-European state, Morocco, on 1 July 2009. It expresses satisfaction at the seminar on co-operation between the Council of Europe and Morocco held in Rabat on 22 and 23 February, in which it took part, and supports the planned follow-up action involving the Centre, the Council of Europe and the European Union, through which the Council of Europe could make a contribution to the process of democratic reforms under way in Morocco, with the political and financial support of the European Union.

2.3 It underlines the importance of closer ties between Europe, Africa and the southern shores of the Mediterranean, requiring dialogue between European and Arab towns and cities, to which the Congress wishes to continue contributing through its expertise and its work on the ground with local and regional players. In this context, the Congress is pleased that a second non-European state, Cape Verde, joined the Centre on 1 March.

2.4 The Congress also welcomes the co-operation by the European Union’s Committee of the Regions with the Centre, which it had called for. It supports the proposal made in Recommendation 1893 (2009) concerning joint participation by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the Committee of the Regions of the European Union in the local and regional dimension of the Centre’s Executive Council, along the lines of the parliamentary dimension shared between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.

2.5 The Congress believes that the management structure of the Centre, based on a “quadrilogue” of governments, parliamentarians, local and regional elected representatives and civil society, clearly adds value to its work and confers a natural legitimacy on the priorities set by the Centre in its activities.

2.6 It notes that, under Article 6.1 of the draft revised statute concerning membership of the Bureau, only one seat is assigned to a representative of local and regional authorities, to be shared between the Congress and the Committee of the Regions.

2.7 In this connection, the Congress underlines that it has always had a seat on the Bureau of the Executive Council and wishes to retain this permanent seat so as to remain a fully-fledged partner of the quadrilogue. It believes that an additional seat could be provided for a representative of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union.

2.8 The Congress also notes that Recommendation 1893 (2009) proposes that the Committee of Ministers consider transforming the Centre’s present status as an enlarged partial agreement into an enlarged agreement and amending Statutory Resolution (93) 51 to that end. It notes, however, that only 19 Council of Europe member states are currently members of the partial agreement. It hopes that the future accession of an increasing number of Council of Europe member states to the North-South Centre will enable the status to be changed to an enlarged agreement in future and calls on the governments concerned to act accordingly.

³ Adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 18 June 2010.

2.9 The Congress reiterates its full support for the Centre as it marks its 20th anniversary, and underlines its key role in promoting the Council of Europe's values outside Europe. In the broader context of the reform process under way at the Council of Europe, it believes that the process of adopting a new statutory resolution for the Centre should lead to strengthening of its political role as a key instrument of the Council of Europe for dialogue and co-operation with non-European countries wishing to share our Organisation's values.

3. Opinion of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe⁴

3.1 On 24 February 2010, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe invited the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe to give its opinion on Recommendation 1893 (2009) of the Parliamentary Assembly on the future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre) and its related proposal for a new Statutory Resolution to update the corresponding Resolution (93) 51.

3.2 The Conference of INGOs accordingly launched an internal consultation procedure. This opinion is a summary of the contributions of the International Non-Governmental Organisations enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe which are members of the Conference of INGOs. It was approved by the Europe and Global Challenges Transversal Group of the Conference of INGOs meeting on 26 April 2010, and was adopted by the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs on 28 April 2010.

3.3 The Conference of INGOs welcomes the decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to initiate a consultation procedure under which the Conference of INGOs can fully exercise its prerogatives within the Organisation's institutional quadrilogue and transmit the contribution of civil society to the substantive debate on the future of the North-South Centre.

3.4 The Conference of INGOs welcomes the initiative by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to launch this debate with its Recommendation 1983 (2009), and voices its support for the proposal to adopt a new Statutory Resolution to reaffirm the importance and relevance of the North-South Centre and to extend this Resolution to all Council of Europe member states. The Conference of INGOs approves the proposal for the North-South Centre to operate as an enlarged agreement to be managed autonomously as an institution set up by the Council of Europe. It asks the Committee of Ministers to ensure that all member states of the Organisation participate fully and provide effective support for the activities of the North-South Centre by all the necessary means, including funding.

3.5 The Conference of INGOs considers that in view of the serious and complex challenges of globalisation, which, coinciding as they are with a world economic crisis, are posing a serious threat to the universal, fundamental values and rights which are vital for the European democratic identity, the Council of Europe is facing a challenge with which it has never before been confronted, namely that of safeguarding, promoting and defending these fundamental values and rights which are its very foundations against all attacks or attempts to sacrifice them to considerations of urgency or expediency. Under the current conditions of global interdependence, the Council of Europe must take up this challenge by reinforcing its field of action and broadening it by opening up to dialogue, partnership and sharing of universal values with Europe's neighbouring countries, particularly those in the South, as well as with the rest of the world.

⁴ Adopted by the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs on 28 April 2010.

3.6 Accordingly, it is vital to reaffirm the *raison d'être* and added value of the North-South Centre, which endeavours to promote universal respect for the Council of Europe's fundamental values and rights by reinforcing dialogue and co-operation between Europe, its neighbouring regions and the rest of the world. Consequently, respect for universal freedoms and human rights, democracy and the rule of law, which are enshrined in European and international treaties, especially the European Convention for the Safeguard of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, are the *sine qua non* condition for "dialogue and co-operation between the Council of Europe and non-European countries or regions". The Conference of INGOs calls on the Committee of Ministers to clarify these "values shared by all" in the new Statutory Resolution by affirming the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights. The commitment to respect and promote, in law and in practice, all the universal freedoms and human rights of all individuals in accordance with international law must be highlighted as the criterion for the accession and continued membership of any State wishing to be a member of the North-South Centre, as well as for the participation of any player wishing to become involved in the Centre's activities.

3.7 To this end, it is equally crucial to encourage the participation of all Council of Europe member states and quadrilogue bodies. The Conference of INGOs welcomes the founding principle of the North-South Centre, which lies in the quadrilogue, and its function of helping "maintain and further enhance a process of quadripartite communication and co-operation between parliamentarians, governments, non-governmental organisations ("NGOs") and local and regional authorities". The Conference of INGOs in particular welcomes the reaffirmed goal of "strengthen(ing) co-operation and contacts between NGOs from the North and South, active in promoting a better understanding of interdependence and in pursuing solidarity in their various dimensions and issue areas".

3.8 In this spirit, civil society as represented in all its diversity within the Conference of INGOs affirms as a "political priority", "promoting awareness of solidarity in the framework of global interdependence, especially between Europe and its southern neighbours". Solidarity is the bedrock of the future orientations of the Conference of INGOs in promoting the Council of Europe's values: peace, democracy, inalienable and in dissociable human rights, including gender equality, the rule of law, social cohesion, education and culture and sustainable development.

3.9 Solidarity is constantly proclaimed in the continuing pioneering work of the Conference of INGOs, notably in the field of North-South relations, helped along by the experience on the ground and the energies of its constituent civil society organisations. No one can overlook the unique role played by civil society in everyday defence against violations of human dignity and human rights, creating a chain of human solidarity that transcends borders and unites continents. Civil society is thus recognised as a major player in the international community and a vital partner for the public authorities and the States.

3.10 "The strengthening of and co-operation with civil society at a global level is an essential part of the Council of Europe's remit: to defend human rights, democracy and the rule of law and to promote awareness of a European identity based on shared universal values and rights, cutting across different cultures". This was the framework for the co-operation agreement concluded between the Conference of INGOs and the North-South Centre on 27 January 2010, geared to reinforcing the existing partnership and mutual support in order to promote solidarity policies in conformity with the goals and principles of the Council of Europe. The Conference of INGOs reaffirms its unreserved support for this common goal. The Conference of INGOs will evaluate the efforts and results with regard to the implementation of this co-operation agreement.

3.11 The Conference of INGOs and the North-South Centre undertook, on the basis of this agreement, "to work together to promote active partnership with independent civil society in the North and South and its active participation in the main lines of action of the North-South Centre and its programme of activities, not least in key areas of mutual interest such as global education, gender equality, combating

poverty and social exclusion, youth, intercultural dialogue, Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-African co-operation, etc.” The Conference of INGOs welcomes these ambitious goals, which are the North-South Centre’s political priorities. It calls on the Committee of Ministers to include these objectives on its long-term agenda so that the new Statutory Resolution can bring the Centre’s current mission into line with the Council of Europe’s strategic and political priorities, particularly in the field of co-operation with non-European regions and countries.

3.12 The Conference of INGOs nevertheless notes that the proposed Statutory Resolution fails to include gender equality among the Centre’s priorities, even though this is a universal value and a fundamental right essential to the European democratic identity. The Conference of INGOs recalls that equality between women and men is a preeminent and transversal objective of the international community in all its activities which must be respected by all its stakeholders by virtue of international and European treaties. As a fundamental right, it is a *sine qua non* for “intercultural dialogue” and must not be made subject to such dialogue. The Conference of INGOs calls on the Committee of Ministers to remedy this serious omission from the new Statutory Resolution by proclaiming gender equality in all fields and the elimination of inequality and violence suffered by women as one of the Centre’s transversal objectives and functions.

3.13 The Conference of INGOs also notes that at this historic time of reform of the North-South Centre, the procedures for representation set out in the proposed Statutory Resolution by no means comply with the principle of the Council of Europe’s quadrilogue. The Conference of INGOs, as a Council of Europe quadrilogue body institutionally represented in the bodies of the Centre, only has two seats in the 27-strong membership of the Centre’s Executive Council. The Conference of INGOs asks the Committee of Ministers to assign the Conference of INGOs at least three seats on the Executive Council of the North-South Centre, ie half the seats assigned, as is the case for the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

3.14 Lastly, the Conference of INGOs notes that, in future, there is no provision for consulting neither the elected representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities nor civil society as represented by the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe in the Centre, given that the new Statutory Resolution lays down that “other States may be invited to accede to the Centre by a decision of the Committee of Ministers taken by the majority provided for in Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council of Europe”. The Conference of INGOs urges the Committee of Ministers to confer consultative rights on the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe in the context of the procedure for examining the accession of States to the North-South Centre and to specify the criteria for such accession.

3.15 The Conference of INGOs thanks the Committee of Ministers for its attention to this opinion from civil society. It voices the hope that the reform of the North-South Centre will be a symbol for a new era of peace, friendship and dialogue, under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations, which are grounded on the affirmation of and respect for the universal and indivisible fundamental rights that are vital for our common humanity and for the existence of an independent civil society which must be accessible by everyone. The credibility of Europe in the eyes of its citizens and the rest of the world is at stake here.

4. Comments made by the President of the European Commission by letter dated 21 May 2010

Dear Mr Jagland,

Thank you for your letter of 16 March asking for the views of the European Commission on the Recommendation of the Parliamentary Assembly concerning "The future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity".

First of all, let me say that we welcome the fruitful cooperation that the Commission has experienced in the last two years with the Centre. Stakeholders and the Commission services involved appreciate the joint-initiatives, in particular in the context of the African-Europe Youth cooperation. As to the accession of Morocco to the Centre, I am glad that the Commission and the EU could contribute through their support to this new development. As I wrote last year to the Chair of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre, Mrs Bergamini, we are happy about the successful complementarity between our organisations, as called for in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2007.

You are kindly associating us to the reflexion process on the future of the Centre. I cannot give you a final reply to such issues as the accession of the EU to the North-South Centre, but can assure you that we will consider this in due time. As you know, since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009, we have been putting a lot of efforts in the process which will lead to the EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights. The possibility of EU accession to other bodies of the Council of Europe may, in my view, be better analysed and dealt with once this major commitment has been completed.

José Manuel Durão Barroso

5. Comments made by the President of the European Parliament by letter dated 7 July 2010

Dear Secretary General,

Thank you very much for your letter of 16 March, in which you request the European Parliament's comments to Recommendation 1893 (2009) on "The future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity". I apologise for the long delay in replying.

I thought that you would like to know that I referred your request for comments to the two Members of the European Parliament on the North-South Centre's Executive Council, Ms Schnieber-Jastram and Mr Martinez Martinez. On the basis of their recommendations, I am happy to inform you that the European Parliament welcomes the proposed new strategy for the North-South Centre, as well as the proposed statutory resolution, which, if adopted, will give the Centre a new impetus.

The Parliament therefore strongly supports the proposals contained in the documents you forwarded to us and very much hopes that they will be adopted and implemented as soon as possible.

Jerzy Buzek

6. Comments made by the President of the Committee of Regions of the European Union by letter dated 17 September 2010

Dear Chair,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 1 April regarding the 20th Anniversary of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre of the Council of Europe) and the

launching of an in-depth reflection on objectives, mandate, priorities and functioning in view of the adoption of a new statutory resolution.

The Committee of the Regions pays special attention to your initiative and supports strongly the proposed new strategy for the North-South Centre. In particular, the offer mentioned in the proposal for a new statutory resolution on the North-South Centre according to which the Committee of the Regions will designate two members as representatives of the Local and Regional Authorities in the Executive Council of the Centre is very welcome.

As a result, the Committee of the Regions will take the appropriate measures as soon as it has been informed about the final decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Mercedes Bresso

7. Comments made by the Secretary General of the European Youth Forum by letter dated 16 November 2010

Dear Mr Jagland,

Further to our letter of 16 June on the Recommendation 1893 (2009) “The future of the European Centre of Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre)” and the following the discussion held at the last meeting of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre, the European Youth Forum reiterates its strong support for the maintenance of the quadrilogue principle.

We firmly believe the representation of parliamentarians, governments, local and regional authorities and civil society in policy decision provides an effective framework for a more participatory and transparent management and effective achievement of the North-South mission. Therefore we urge to maintain the quadrilogue principle in the new Statutory Resolution.

Giuseppe Porcaro

8. Comments made by a Board Member of CONCORD by letter dated 17 November 2010

I am writing to you as one of the members of the the Executive Council of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, representing a civil society organisation, and as the Board Member of CONCORD, the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development. I am now turning to you in relation to the current process of proposing a new Statutory Resolution for the NSC which will elevate and refresh its work and bring in new impetus to the 21st century.

At the last meeting of the Executive Council on 3 November in Lisbon, an interesting debate took place regarding your proposal, for which I would very much like to thank you for and which I find very comprehensive and in line with current developments in society. However, one of the worrying aspects raised during the debate was the questioning, by mainly some member States of the Council of Europe, of the existence and added value of the so called quadrilogue, ie the representation of parliamentarians, governments, local and regional authorities and last but not least, the civil society movements. Needless to say, the quadrilogue for us is one of the uniquenesses and strengths of the NSC and a very essential part of a modern organisation which allows for an inclusive and transparent way of working. I would therefore like to express my worries and from the civil society perspective underline the importance and uniqueness to maintain such a structure also in the future in the new Statutory Resolution. With the quadrilogue, the

Council of Europe sets a leading example which would be regrettable to lose for all parties. It is part of a modern construction of having good relations with civil society and is thus of high value to CONCORD.

I have confidence in that you will take our concern into consideration and continue to advocate for your proposal, in order for us to maintain this important and modern feature for the North-South Centre in the 21st century.

Rilli Lappalainen

9. Comments made by the Vice-President of the European Parliament by letter dated 25 November 2010

Dear Secretary General,

Following the last meeting of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe on 3 November 2010 in Lisbon and the debate on the current process of proposing and adopting a new Statutory Resolution for the NSC, I would first of all like to thank you for your remarkable work of bringing together different perspectives and suggestions for a new Statutory Resolution into one comprehensive proposal. In this regard, I would like to express my strong support for maintaining the quadrilogue structure of the NSC in the future.

I have had the privilege to lead and follow the work of the North-South Centre for many years, inter alia, as one of the Chairs of the Executive Council (1995-2004) and through this work I have experienced the added value of the quadrilogue structure and the importance it brings to the decision-making process of the Council of Europe as an intergovernmental organisation. In a very unique setting, national and European parliamentarians, representatives of national governments and local and regional authorities and key civil society actors are allowed to jointly discuss, advise on and equally be part of the decision-making processes of the NSC. I believe that this exceptional composition of key actors in the society is what make the NSC an up-to-date, inclusive and transparent organisation and such a unique feature would thus be very regrettable to lose.

I am therefore strongly advocating for maintaining the quadrilogue in the new Statutory Resolution of the NSC and I am confident in that you will take this aspect into consideration in the elaboration of the final proposal.

Wishing you plenty of success in your high responsibilities at the Council of Europe, I remain yours very cordially.

Miguel Angel Martinez